

Calendar No. 225

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION**S. 1866**

To establish the veterans' business outreach center program, to improve the programs for veterans of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 27, 2015

Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Ms. HIRONO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

SEPTEMBER 15, 2015

Reported by Mr. VITTER, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

A BILL

To establish the veterans' business outreach center program, to improve the programs for veterans of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Small Busi-
5 ness Ownership Improvements Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. VETERANS' BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTER PRO-**
 2 **GRAM; OFFICE OF VETERANS BUSINESS DE-**
 3 **VELOPMENT.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 32 of the Small Business
 5 Act (~~15~~ U.S.C. 657b) is amended by striking subsections
 6 (d), (e), and (f) and inserting the following:

7 “(d) **BOOTS TO BUSINESS PROGRAM.**—

8 “(1) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection—

9 “(A) the term ‘covered individual’ means—

10 “(i) a member of the Armed Forces;
 11 without regard to whether the member is
 12 participating in the Transition Assistance
 13 Program of the Department of Defense;

14 “(ii) an individual who is participating
 15 in the Transition Assistance Program of
 16 the Department of Defense;

17 “(iii) an individual who—

18 “(I) served on active duty in any
 19 branch of the Armed Forces, includ-
 20 ing the National Guard and Reserves;
 21 and

22 “(II) was discharged or released
 23 from such service under conditions
 24 other than dishonorable; and

1 “(iv) a spouse or dependent of an in-
 2 dividual described in clause (i), (ii), or (iii);
 3 and

4 “(B) the term ‘Vet Center’ means a center
 5 for readjustment counseling and related mental
 6 health services for veterans under section
 7 1712A of title 38, United States Code.

8 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a
 9 program to be known as the ‘Boots to Business Pro-
 10 gram’ to provide entrepreneurship training to cov-
 11 ered individuals, which shall be carried out by the
 12 Administrator.

13 “(3) GOALS.—The goals of the Boots to Busi-
 14 ness Program are to—

15 “(A) provide exposure, introduction, and
 16 in-depth training for covered individuals inter-
 17 ested in business ownership; and

18 “(B) provide covered individuals with the
 19 tools and knowledge necessary to identify a
 20 business opportunity, draft a business plan,
 21 identify sources of capital, connect with local
 22 small business resources, and launch a small
 23 business concern.

24 “(4) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Boots to Busi-
2 ness Program may include—

3 “(i) a brief presentation providing ex-
4 posure to the considerations involved in
5 self-employment and small business owner-
6 ship;

7 “(ii) an online, self-study course fo-
8 cused on the basic skills of entrepreneur-
9 ship, the language of business, and the
10 considerations involved in self-employment
11 and small business ownership;

12 “(iii) an in-person classroom instruc-
13 tion component providing an introduction
14 to the foundations of self-employment and
15 small business ownership; and

16 “(iv) in-depth training delivered
17 through online instruction, including an
18 online course that leads to the creation of
19 a business plan.

20 “(B) COLLABORATION.—The Adminis-
21 trator may—

22 “(i) collaborate with public and pri-
23 vate entities to develop a course curriculum
24 for the Boots to Business Program; and

1 “(ii) modify program components in
 2 coordination with entities participating in
 3 the Warriors in Transition programs, as
 4 defined in section 738(f) of the National
 5 Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year
 6 2013 (10 U.S.C. 1071 note).

7 “(C) UTILIZATION OF RESOURCE PART-
 8 NERS.—

9 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Associate Ad-
 10 ministrators shall—

11 “(I) ensure that veterans’ busi-
 12 ness outreach centers regularly partici-
 13 pate, on a nationwide basis, in the
 14 Boots to Business Program; and

15 “(II) to the maximum extent
 16 practicable, use a variety of other re-
 17 source partners and entities in admin-
 18 istering the Boots to Business Pro-
 19 gram.

20 “(ii) GRANT AUTHORITY.—In carrying
 21 out clause (i), the Associate Administrator
 22 may make grants to veterans’ business
 23 outreach centers, other resource partners,
 24 and other entities to carry out components
 25 of the Boots to Business Program.

1 “(D) AVAILABILITY TO DOD.—The Admin-
2 istrator shall—

3 “(i) make available electronically in-
4 formation regarding the Boots to Business
5 Program and all course materials created
6 for the Boots to Business Program to the
7 Secretary of Defense for inclusion on the
8 website of the Department of Defense re-
9 lating to the Transition Assistance Pro-
10 gram and in the Transition Assistance
11 Program manual and other publications
12 and materials available for distribution
13 from the Secretary of Defense; and

14 “(ii) fully participate in the inter-
15 agency governance of the Transition As-
16 sistance Program.

17 “(E) AVAILABILITY TO VETERANS AF-
18 FAIRS.—In consultation with the Secretary of
19 Veterans Affairs, the Associate Administrator
20 shall make available outreach materials regard-
21 ing the Boots to Business Program for distribu-
22 tion and display at local facilities of the Depart-
23 ment of Veterans Affairs (including medical
24 centers, community-based outpatient clinics,
25 Vet Centers, and other facilities determined ap-

1 propriate by the Associate Administrator and
2 the Secretary), which shall, at a minimum—

3 “(i) describe the Boots to Business
4 Program, including a description of serv-
5 ices provided; and

6 “(ii) include eligibility requirements
7 for participating in the Boots to Business
8 Program.

9 ~~“(5) REVIEW.~~—The Inspector General of the
10 Administration shall submit to the Committee on
11 Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate
12 and the Committee on Small Business of the House
13 of Representatives an annual report regarding the
14 awarding of grants under the Boots to Business
15 Program.

16 ~~“(e) WOMEN VETERANS BUSINESS TRAINING PRO-~~
17 ~~GRAM.~~—

18 ~~“(1) DEFINITION.~~—In this subsection, the term
19 ‘covered individual’ means an individual who—

20 ~~“(A) is female; and~~

21 ~~“(B) is—~~

22 ~~“(i) a member of the Armed Forces;~~

23 ~~“(ii) a veteran; or~~

24 ~~“(iii) the spouse or dependent of a~~
25 member of the Armed Forces or a veteran.

1 “(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator
 2 shall establish a program, to be known as the
 3 Women Veterans Business Training Program, to
 4 provide specific training for covered individuals in-
 5 terested in exploring careers as owners of small busi-
 6 ness concerns.

7 “(3) GOALS.—The goals of the Women Vet-
 8 erans Business Training Program are to—

9 “(A) help covered individuals by providing
 10 the tools to become successful entrepreneurs;
 11 and

12 “(B) integrate the leadership, integrity,
 13 focus, and drive of covered individuals into a
 14 premier education training program taught by
 15 accomplished entrepreneurs and entrepreneur-
 16 ship educators from across the United States.

17 “(4) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Women Veterans
 19 Business Training Program may include—

20 “(i) an online, self-study course fo-
 21 cused on the basic skills of entrepreneur-
 22 ship and the language of business;

23 “(ii) a conference where participants
 24 are exposed to accomplished entrepreneurs

1 and entrepreneurship educators from
2 across the United States; and

3 “(iii) a plan to provide ongoing sup-
4 port and mentorship.

5 “(B) COLLABORATION.—The Adminis-
6 trator may collaborate with public and private
7 entities to develop a course curriculum for the
8 Women Veterans Business Training Program.

9 “(5) WOMEN VETERANS BUSINESS TRAINING.—
10 The Associate Administrator shall—

11 “(A) compile information on resources
12 available to women veterans for business train-
13 ing, including resources for—

14 “(i) vocational and technical edu-
15 cation;

16 “(ii) general business skills, such as
17 marketing and accounting; and

18 “(iii) business assistance programs
19 targeted to women veterans;

20 “(B) disseminate the information compiled
21 under subparagraph (A) through veterans’ busi-
22 ness outreach centers and women’s business
23 centers; and

24 “(C) in consultation with the Secretary of
25 Veterans Affairs, make available outreach mate-

1 rials regarding the Women Veterans Business
 2 Training Program for distribution and display
 3 at local facilities of the Department of Veterans
 4 Affairs (including medical centers, community-
 5 based outpatient clinics, Vet Centers (as de-
 6 fined in subsection (d)(1)), and other facilities
 7 determined appropriate by the Associate Ad-
 8 ministrator and the Secretary), which shall, at
 9 a minimum—

10 “(i) describe the Women Veterans
 11 Business Training Program, including a
 12 description of services provided; and

13 “(ii) include eligibility requirements
 14 for participating in the Women Veterans
 15 Business Training Program.

16 “(6) GRANT AUTHORITY.—The Associate Ad-
 17 ministrator may make grants to veterans’ business
 18 outreach centers, women’s business centers, and
 19 other entities, including other resource partners, to
 20 carry out components of the Women Veterans Busi-
 21 ness Training Program.

22 “(f) BUSINESS TRAINING PROGRAM FOR SERVICE
 23 DISABLED VETERANS.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall es-
 25 tablish a Business Training Program for Service

1 Disabled Veterans to provide specific training for
2 service-disabled veterans interested in exploring ca-
3 reers as owners of small business concerns.

4 “(2) GOALS.—The goals of the Business Train-
5 ing Program for Service Disabled Veterans are to—

6 “(A) help service-disabled veterans by pro-
7 viding the tools to become successful entre-
8 preneurs; and

9 “(B) integrate the leadership, integrity,
10 focus, and drive of service-disabled veterans
11 into a premier education training program
12 taught by accomplished entrepreneurs and en-
13 trepreneurship educators from across the
14 United States.

15 “(3) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Business Train-
17 ing Program for Service Disabled Veterans may
18 include—

19 “(i) an online, self-study course fo-
20 cused on the basic skills of entrepreneur-
21 ship and the language of business;

22 “(ii) a conference where participants
23 are exposed to accomplished entrepreneurs
24 and entrepreneurship educators from
25 across the United States; and

1 “(iii) a plan to provide ongoing sup-
2 port and mentorship.

3 “(B) COLLABORATION.—The Adminis-
4 trator may collaborate with public and private
5 entities to develop a course curriculum for the
6 Business Training Program for Service Dis-
7 abled Veterans.

8 “(4) AVAILABILITY TO VETERANS AFFAIRS.—In
9 consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs,
10 the Associate Administrator shall make available
11 outreach materials regarding the Business Training
12 Program for Service Disabled Veterans for distribu-
13 tion and display at local facilities of the Department
14 of Veterans Affairs (including medical centers, com-
15 munity-based outpatient clinics, Vet Centers (as de-
16 fined in subsection (d)(1)), and other facilities deter-
17 mined appropriate by the Associate Administrator
18 and the Secretary); which shall, at a minimum—

19 “(A) describe the Business Training Pro-
20 gram for Service Disabled Veterans, including a
21 description of services provided; and

22 “(B) include eligibility requirements for
23 participating in the Business Training Program
24 for Service Disabled Veterans.

1 “(5) GRANT AUTHORITY.—The Associate Ad-
 2 ministrators may make grants to veterans’ business
 3 outreach centers and other entities, including other
 4 resource partners, to carry out components of the
 5 Business Training Program for Service Disabled
 6 Veterans.

7 “(g) VETERANS’ BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTER
 8 PROGRAM.—

9 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

10 “(A) the term ‘active duty’ has the mean-
 11 ing given that term in section 101 of title 10,
 12 United States Code;

13 “(B) the term ‘Reservist’ means a member
 14 of a reserve component of the Armed Forces, as
 15 described in section 10101 of title 10, United
 16 States Code;

17 “(C) the term ‘small business concern
 18 owned and controlled by veterans’—

19 “(i) has the meaning given that term
 20 in section 3(q); and

21 “(ii) includes a small business con-
 22 cern—

23 “(I) not less than 51 percent of
 24 which is owned by 1 or more spouses
 25 of veterans or, in the case of any pub-

1 liely owned business; not less than 51
 2 percent of the stock of which is owned
 3 by 1 or more spouses of veterans; and
 4 “(H) the management and daily
 5 business operations of which are con-
 6 trolled by 1 or more spouses of vet-
 7 erans;

8 “(D) the term ‘spouse’, relating to a mem-
 9 ber of the Armed Forces on active duty, vet-
 10 eran, service-disabled veteran, or Reservist, in-
 11 cludes an individual who, on the date on which
 12 the member of the Armed Forces on active
 13 duty, veteran, service-disabled veteran, or Re-
 14 servist died, is the spouse of the member of the
 15 Armed Forces on active duty, veteran, service-
 16 disabled veteran, or Reservist; and

17 “(E) the term ‘veterans’ business outreach
 18 center program’ means the program established
 19 under paragraph (2)(A).

20 “(2) PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator,
 22 acting through the Associate Administrator,
 23 shall establish a veterans’ business outreach
 24 center program, under which the Associate Ad-
 25 ministrator may provide financial assistance to

1 educational institutions, veterans' nonprofit
 2 community-based organizations, and Federal,
 3 State, and local departments and agencies to
 4 conduct a 5-year project for the benefit of small
 5 business concerns owned and controlled by vet-
 6 erans, which, upon application by the entity re-
 7 ceiving financial assistance, may be renewed for
 8 1 or more additional 5-year periods.

9 ~~“(B) FORM OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—~~

10 Financial assistance under this subsection may
 11 be in the form of a grant, a contract, or a coop-
 12 erative agreement.

13 ~~“(3) VETERANS' BUSINESS OUTREACH CEN-~~

14 ~~TERS.—~~Each entity that receives financial assistance
 15 under this subsection shall establish or operate a
 16 veterans' business outreach center (which may in-
 17 clude establishing or operating satellite offices in the
 18 region described in paragraph (5) served by that en-
 19 tity) that provides to veterans (including service-dis-
 20 abled veterans), Reservists, and the spouses of mem-
 21 bers of the Armed Forces on active duty, veterans
 22 (including service-disabled veterans), and Reserv-
 23 ists—

24 ~~“(A) financial advice, including training~~
 25 ~~and counseling on applying for and securing~~

1 business credit and investment capital, pre-
2 paring and presenting financial statements, and
3 managing cash flow and other financial oper-
4 ations of a small business concern;

5 “(B) management advice, including train-
6 ing and counseling on the planning, organiza-
7 tion, staffing, direction, and control of each
8 major activity and function of a small business
9 concern;

10 “(C) technical assistance, training, and
11 counseling to assist in identifying and obtaining
12 Federal procurement opportunities;

13 “(D) marketing advice, including training
14 and counseling on identifying and segmenting
15 domestic and international market opportuni-
16 ties, preparing and executing marketing plans,
17 developing pricing strategies, locating contract
18 opportunities, negotiating contracts, and using
19 public relations and advertising techniques; and

20 “(E) other advice, including training and
21 counseling.

22 “(4) APPLICATION.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An entity desiring to
24 receive financial assistance under this sub-
25 section shall submit an application to the Asso-

1 ciate Administrator at such time and in such
 2 manner as the Associate Administrator may re-
 3 quire.

4 “(B) 5-YEAR PLAN.—Each application de-
 5 scribed in subparagraph (A) shall include a 5-
 6 year plan on proposed fundraising and training
 7 activities relating to the veterans’ business out-
 8 reach center.

9 “(C) DETERMINATION AND NOTIFICA-
 10 TION.—Not later than 90 days after the date
 11 on which applications for a fiscal year are re-
 12 quired to be submitted under subparagraph (A),
 13 the Associate Administrator shall approve or
 14 deny any application submitted and notify the
 15 applicant of the determination.

16 “(D) AVAILABILITY OF APPLICATION.—
 17 The Associate Administrator shall make every
 18 effort to make the application under subpara-
 19 graph (A) available online.

20 “(5) ELIGIBILITY.—The Associate Adminis-
 21 trator may select to receive financial assistance
 22 under this subsection—

23 “(A) a Veterans’ Business Outreach Cen-
 24 ter established by the Administrator under sec-

tion 8(b)(17) on or before the day before the date of enactment of this subsection; or

~~“(B) educational institutions; veterans’ nonprofit community-based organizations; and Federal, State, and local departments and agencies located in various regions of the United States, as the Associate Administrator determines is appropriate.~~

~~“(6) SELECTION CRITERIA.—~~

~~“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Associate Administrator shall establish selection criteria, stated in terms of relative importance, to evaluate and rank applicants under paragraph (5)(B) for financial assistance under this subsection.~~

~~“(B) CRITERIA.—The selection criteria established under this paragraph shall include—~~

~~“(i) the experience of the applicant in conducting programs or ongoing efforts designed to impart or upgrade the business skills of veterans (including service-disabled veterans); Reservists; and the spouses of members of the Armed Forces on active duty, veterans (including service-disabled veterans); and Reservists who own or may own small business concerns;~~

1 “(ii) for an applicant for initial finan-
2 cial assistance under this subsection—

3 “(I) the ability of the applicant
4 to begin operating a veterans’ busi-
5 ness outreach center within a min-
6 imum amount of time; and

7 “(II) the geographic region to be
8 served by the veterans’ business out-
9 reach center;

10 “(iii) the demonstrated ability of the
11 applicant to—

12 “(I) provide managerial coun-
13 seling and technical assistance to en-
14 trepreneurs; and

15 “(II) coordinate services provided
16 by veterans service organizations and
17 other public or private entities;

18 “(iv) the demonstrated ability to le-
19 verage and coordinate with existing re-
20 sources and infrastructure of the Adminis-
21 tration; and

22 “(v) for any applicant for a renewal of
23 financial assistance under this subsection,
24 the results of the most recent examination
25 under paragraph (11) of the veterans’

1 business outreach center operated by the
 2 applicant.

3 ~~“(C) CRITERIA PUBLICLY AVAILABLE.—~~

4 The Associate Administrator shall—

5 ~~“(i) make publicly available the selec-~~
 6 ~~tion criteria established under this para-~~
 7 ~~graph;~~

8 ~~“(ii) include the criteria in each solici-~~
 9 ~~tation for applications for financial assist-~~
 10 ~~ance under this subsection;~~

11 ~~“(iii) make every effort to ensure re-~~
 12 ~~gional accessibility and geographic rep-~~
 13 ~~resentation in awarding financial assist-~~
 14 ~~ance under this subsection; and~~

15 ~~“(iv) to the extent practicable, make~~
 16 ~~publicly available the approximate antici-~~
 17 ~~pated date for the determination of award~~
 18 ~~recipients by the Administration and the~~
 19 ~~anticipated timing of disbursement.~~

20 ~~“(7) AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.—The amount of~~
 21 ~~financial assistance provided under this subsection~~
 22 ~~to an entity for each fiscal year shall be not less~~
 23 ~~than \$100,000.~~

24 ~~“(8) FEDERAL SHARE.—~~

25 ~~“(A) IN GENERAL.—~~

1 “(i) INITIAL FINANCIAL ASSIST-
 2 ANCE.—Except as provided in clause (ii)
 3 and subparagraph (E), an entity that re-
 4 ceives financial assistance under this sub-
 5 section shall provide non-Federal contribu-
 6 tions for the operation of the veterans’
 7 business outreach center established by the
 8 entity in an amount equal to—

9 “(I) in each of the first and sec-
 10 ond years of the project, not less than
 11 33 percent of the amount of the fi-
 12 nancial assistance received under this
 13 subsection; and

14 “(II) in each of the third through
 15 fifth years of the project, not less
 16 than 50 percent of the amount of the
 17 financial assistance received under
 18 this subsection.

19 “(ii) RENEWALS.—An entity that re-
 20 ceives a renewal of financial assistance
 21 under this subsection shall provide non-
 22 Federal contributions for the operation of
 23 the veterans’ business outreach center es-
 24 tablished by the entity in an amount equal
 25 to not less than 50 percent of the amount

1 of the financial assistance received under
2 this subsection.

3 “(B) FORM OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

4 Not more than 50 percent of the non-Federal
5 share for a project carried out using financial
6 assistance under this subsection may be in the
7 form of in-kind contributions.

8 “(C) TIMING OF DISBURSEMENT.—The
9 Associate Administrator may disburse not more
10 than 25 percent of the financial assistance
11 awarded to an entity before the entity obtains
12 the non-Federal share required under this para-
13 graph with respect to that award.

14 “(D) FAILURE TO OBTAIN NON-FEDERAL
15 FUNDING.—

16 “(i) IN GENERAL.—If an entity that
17 receives financial assistance under this
18 subsection fails to obtain the non-Federal
19 share required under this paragraph dur-
20 ing 2 consecutive fiscal years, the entity
21 may not receive a disbursement under this
22 subsection in a subsequent fiscal year or a
23 disbursement for any other project funded
24 by the Administration, unless the Adminis-
25 trator makes a written determination that

1 the entity will be able to obtain a non-Fed-
 2 eral contribution.

3 “(ii) RESTORATION.—An entity pro-
 4 hibited from receiving a disbursement
 5 under clause (i) in a fiscal year may re-
 6 ceive financial assistance in a subsequent
 7 fiscal year if the entity obtains the non-
 8 Federal share required under this para-
 9 graph for the subsequent fiscal year.

10 “(E) WAIVER OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

11 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Upon request by
 12 an entity, and in accordance with this sub-
 13 paragraph, the Administrator may waive,
 14 in whole or in part, the requirement to ob-
 15 tain non-Federal funds under subpara-
 16 graph (A) for a fiscal year. The Adminis-
 17 trator may not waive the requirement for
 18 an entity to obtain non-Federal funds
 19 under this subparagraph for more than a
 20 total of 2 fiscal years.

21 “(ii) CONSIDERATIONS.—In deter-
 22 mining whether to waive the requirement
 23 to obtain non-Federal funds under this
 24 subparagraph, the Administrator shall con-
 25 sider—

1 ~~“(I) the economic conditions af-~~
 2 ~~fecting the entity;~~

3 ~~“(II) the impact a waiver under~~
 4 ~~this subparagraph would have on the~~
 5 ~~credibility of the veterans’ business~~
 6 ~~outreach center program;~~

7 ~~“(III) the demonstrated ability of~~
 8 ~~the entity to raise non-Federal funds;~~
 9 ~~and~~

10 ~~“(IV) the performance of the en-~~
 11 ~~tity.~~

12 ~~“(iii) LIMITATION.—The Adminis-~~
 13 ~~trator may not waive the requirement to~~
 14 ~~obtain non-Federal funds under this sub-~~
 15 ~~paragraph if granting the waiver would un-~~
 16 ~~dermine the credibility of the veterans’~~
 17 ~~business outreach center program.~~

18 ~~“(9) AFFILIATION WITH SMALL BUSINESS DE-~~
 19 ~~VELOPMENT CENTERS.—~~

20 ~~“(A) IN GENERAL.—An entity receiving fi-~~
 21 ~~nancial assistance under this subsection shall~~
 22 ~~enter into an agreement to affiliate with a small~~
 23 ~~business development center for purposes of~~
 24 ~~carrying out the activities of the entity using~~
 25 ~~the financial assistance.~~

1 “(B) ~~CONSISTENCY WITH AGREEMENT.—~~

2 The terms of an agreement to affiliate under
3 subparagraph (A) shall be in accordance with
4 the terms of any agreement between the appli-
5 cable small business development center and the
6 Administration.

7 “(10) ~~CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—~~A veterans’

8 business outreach center may enter into a contract
9 with a Federal department or agency to provide spe-
10 cific assistance to veterans, service-disabled veterans,
11 Reservists, or the spouses of members of the Armed
12 Forces on active duty, veterans, service-disabled vet-
13 erans, or Reservists with prior written approval of
14 the Associate Administrator. Performance of such
15 contract shall not hinder the veterans’ business out-
16 reach center in carrying out the terms of the grant
17 received by the veterans’ business outreach center
18 from the Administrator.

19 “(11) ~~EXAMINATION AND DETERMINATION OF~~
20 ~~PERFORMANCE.—~~

21 “(A) ~~EXAMINATION.—~~

22 “(i) ~~IN GENERAL.—~~Not later than
23 180 days after the date of enactment of
24 this subsection and every year thereafter,
25 the Associate Administrator shall conduct

1 an annual examination of the programs
 2 and finances of each veterans' business
 3 outreach center established or operated
 4 using financial assistance under this sub-
 5 section.

6 “(ii) FACTORS.—In conducting the ex-
 7 amination under clause (i), the Associate
 8 Administrator shall consider whether the
 9 veterans' business outreach center has
 10 failed—

11 “(I) to provide the information
 12 required to be provided under sub-
 13 paragraph (B), or the information
 14 provided by the center is inadequate;

15 “(II) to comply with a require-
 16 ment for participation in the veterans'
 17 business outreach center program, as
 18 determined by the Associate Adminis-
 19 trator, including—

20 “(aa) failure to acquire or
 21 properly document a non-Federal
 22 share;

23 “(bb) failure to establish an
 24 appropriate partnership or pro-

1 gram for marketing and outreach
2 to small business concerns;

3 “~~(cc)~~ failure to achieve re-
4 sults described in a financial as-
5 sistance agreement; and

6 “~~(dd)~~ failure to provide to
7 the Administrator a description
8 of the amount and sources of any
9 non-Federal funding received by
10 the center;

11 “~~(III)~~ to carry out the 5-year
12 plan under in paragraph (4)(B);

13 “~~(IV)~~ to meet the eligibility re-
14 quirements under paragraph (5); or

15 “~~(V)~~ to serve small business con-
16 cerns in the geographic region served
17 by the veterans’ business outreach
18 center.

19 “~~(B)~~ INFORMATION PROVIDED.—In the
20 course of an examination under subparagraph
21 (A), the veterans’ business outreach center shall
22 provide to the Associate Administrator—

23 “~~(i)~~ an itemized cost breakdown of ac-
24 tual expenditures for costs incurred during
25 the most recent full fiscal year, including

the amount spent on administrative expenses;

“(ii) documentation of the amount of non-Federal contributions obtained and expended by the veterans’ business outreach center during the most recent full fiscal year;

“(iii) with respect to any in-kind contribution under paragraph (8)(B), verification of the existence and valuation of such contribution; and

“(iv) any additional information the Associate Administrator determines necessary.

“(C) DETERMINATION OF PERFORMANCE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Associate Administrator shall analyze the results of each examination under subparagraph (A) and, based on that analysis, make a determination regarding the performance of the programs and finances of each veterans’ business outreach center.

“(ii) NONDELEGATION OF DETERMINATION.—The duty under clause (i) to

1 make a determination regarding the per-
2 formance of the programs and finances of
3 a veterans' business outreach center may
4 not be delegated.

5 “(D) DISCONTINUATION OF FUNDING.—

6 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Associate Ad-
7 ministrator may discontinue an award of
8 financial assistance to an entity at any
9 time for poor performance as determined
10 under subparagraph (C).

11 “(ii) RESTORATION.—The Associate
12 Administrator may continue to provide fi-
13 nancial assistance to an entity in a subse-
14 quent fiscal year if the Associate Adminis-
15 trator determines under subparagraph (C)
16 that the veterans' business outreach center
17 has taken appropriate measures to improve
18 its performance and it is viable.

19 “(12) COORDINATION OF EFFORTS AND CON-
20 SULTATION.—

21 “(A) COORDINATION AND CONSULTA-
22 TION.—To the extent practicable, the Associate
23 Administrator and each entity that receives fi-
24 nancial assistance under this subsection shall—

“(i) coordinate outreach and other activities with other programs of the Administration and the programs of other Federal agencies, including programs at local facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs;

“(ii) consult with technical representatives of the district offices of the Administration in carrying out activities using financial assistance under this subsection; and

“(iii) provide information to the veterans business development officers designated under subparagraph (B) and coordinate with the veterans business development officers to increase the ability of the veterans business development officers to provide services throughout the area served by the veterans business development officers.

“(B) VETERANS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS.—

“(i) DESIGNATION.—The Administrator shall designate not fewer than 1 individual in each district office of the Ad-

1 ministration as a veterans business devel-
 2 opment officer, who shall communicate and
 3 coordinate activities of the district office
 4 with entities that receive financial assist-
 5 ance under this subsection.

6 ~~“(ii) INITIAL DESIGNATION.—~~The
 7 first individual in each district office of the
 8 Administration designated by the Adminis-
 9 trator as a veterans business development
 10 officer under clause (i) shall be an indi-
 11 vidual that is employed by the Administra-
 12 tion on the date of enactment of this sub-
 13 section.

14 ~~“(13) EXISTING CONTRACTS.—~~An award of fi-
 15 nancial assistance under this subsection shall not
 16 void any contract or cooperative agreement between
 17 any entity and the Administration or grant to any
 18 entity from the Administration that is in effect on
 19 the date of such award.

20 ~~“(h) ONLINE COORDINATION.—~~

21 ~~“(1) DEFINITION.—~~In this subsection, the term
 22 ‘veterans’ assistance provider’ means—

23 ~~“(A) a veterans’ business outreach center~~
 24 established under subsection (g);

1 ~~“(B) an employee of the Administration~~
 2 ~~assigned to the Office of Veterans Business De-~~
 3 ~~velopment; or~~

4 ~~“(C) a veterans business development offi-~~
 5 ~~cer designated under subsection (g)(12)(B).~~

6 ~~“(2) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Associate Admin-~~
 7 ~~istrator shall establish an online mechanism to—~~

8 ~~“(A) provide information that assists vet-~~
 9 ~~erans’ assistance providers in carrying out the~~
 10 ~~activities of the veterans’ assistance providers;~~
 11 ~~and~~

12 ~~“(B) coordinate and leverage the work of~~
 13 ~~the veterans’ assistance providers, including by~~
 14 ~~allowing a veterans’ assistance provider to—~~

15 ~~“(i) distribute best practices and~~
 16 ~~other materials;~~

17 ~~“(ii) communicate with other vet-~~
 18 ~~erans’ assistance providers regarding the~~
 19 ~~activities of the veterans’ assistance pro-~~
 20 ~~vider on behalf of veterans; and~~

21 ~~“(iii) pose questions to and request~~
 22 ~~input from other veterans’ assistance pro-~~
 23 ~~viders.~~

1 “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
 2 authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2016
 3 through 2020—

4 “(1) \$2,500,000 to carry out subsection (g);
 5 and

6 “(2) \$8,000,000 to carry out subsections (d),
 7 (e), and (f).

8 “(j) PROHIBITION ON OVERSEAS TRAVEL.—Finan-
 9 cial assistance made available under this section may not
 10 be used to subsidize travel outside of the United States
 11 (as defined in section 202(a)(7) of the State Department
 12 Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 4302(a)(7))).

13 “(k) REPORTS.—Not later than 180 days after the
 14 date of enactment of this subsection and every year there-
 15 after, the Associate Administrator shall submit to the
 16 Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of
 17 the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the
 18 House of Representatives a report on the performance and
 19 effectiveness for the programs authorized under this sec-
 20 tion, which may be included as part of another report sub-
 21 mitted to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepre-
 22 neurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Busi-
 23 ness of the House of Representatives by the Associate Ad-
 24 ministrator, and which shall include the following:

1 “(1) **BOOTS TO BUSINESS.**—For the Boots to
2 Business Program under subsection (d)—

3 “(A) the number of program participants
4 using each component of the Boots to Business
5 Program;

6 “(B) the completion rates for each compo-
7 nent of the Boots to Business Program;

8 “(C) to the extent possible—

9 “(i) the demographics of program par-
10 ticipants, to include gender, age, race, rela-
11 tionship to military, Military Occupational
12 Code, and years of service of program par-
13 ticipants;

14 “(ii) the number of small business
15 concerns formed or expanded with assist-
16 ance under the Boots to Business Pro-
17 gram;

18 “(iii) the gross receipts of small busi-
19 ness concerns receiving assistance under
20 the Boots to Business Program;

21 “(iv) the number of jobs created with
22 assistance under the Boots to Business
23 Program;

1 “(v) the number of referrals to other
2 resources and programs of the Administra-
3 tion;

4 “(vi) the number of program partici-
5 pants receiving financial assistance under
6 loan programs of the Administration;

7 “(vii) the type and dollar amount of
8 financial assistance received by program
9 participants under loan programs of the
10 Administration; and

11 “(viii) results of participant satisfac-
12 tion surveys, including a summary of any
13 comments received from program partici-
14 pants;

15 “(D) an evaluation of the effectiveness of
16 the program in each region of the Administra-
17 tion during the most recent fiscal year;

18 “(E) an assessment of additional perform-
19 ance outcome measures for the Boots to Busi-
20 ness Program, as identified by the Associate
21 Administrator;

22 “(F) any recommendations of the Adminis-
23 trator for improvement of the Boots to Busi-
24 ness Program, which may include expansion of

1 the types of individuals who are covered individ-
 2 uals;

3 “(G) an explanation of how the Boots to
 4 Business Program has been integrated with
 5 other transition programs and related resources
 6 of the Administration and other Federal agen-
 7 cies; and

8 “(H) any additional information the Ad-
 9 ministrator determines necessary.

10 “(2) WOMEN VETERANS BUSINESS TRAINING
 11 PROGRAM.—For the Women Veterans Business
 12 Training Program under subsection (c)—

13 “(A) the number of program participants
 14 using each component of the Women Veterans
 15 Business Training Program;

16 “(B) the completion rates for each compo-
 17 nent of the Women Veterans Business Training
 18 Program;

19 “(C) to the extent possible—

20 “(i) the demographics of program par-
 21 ticipants, to include gender, age, race, rela-
 22 tionship to military, and years of service;

23 “(ii) the number of small business
 24 concerns formed or expanded with assist-

1 ance under the Women Veterans Business
2 Training Program;

3 “(iii) the gross receipts of small busi-
4 ness concerns receiving assistance under
5 the Women Veterans Business Training
6 Program;

7 “(iv) the number of jobs created with
8 assistance under the Women Veterans
9 Business Training Program;

10 “(v) the number of referrals to other
11 resources and programs of the Administra-
12 tion;

13 “(vi) the number of referrals from
14 other resources and programs of the Ad-
15 ministration and other Federal agencies;

16 “(vii) the number of program partici-
17 pants receiving financial assistance under
18 loan programs of the Administration;

19 “(viii) the type and dollar amount of
20 financial assistance received by program
21 participants under loan programs of the
22 Administration; and

23 “(ix) the results of participant satis-
24 faction surveys, including a summary of

1 any comments received from program par-
2 ticipants;

3 ~~“(D) an assessment of additional perform-~~
4 ~~ance outcome measures for the Women Vet-~~
5 ~~erans Business Training Program, as identified~~
6 ~~by the Associate Administrator;~~

7 ~~“(E) any recommendations of the Adminis-~~
8 ~~trator for improvement of the Women Veterans~~
9 ~~Business Training Program;~~

10 ~~“(F) an explanation of how the Women~~
11 ~~Veterans Business Training Program has been~~
12 ~~integrated with other transition programs and~~
13 ~~related resources of the Administration and~~
14 ~~other Federal agencies; and~~

15 ~~“(G) any additional information the Ad-~~
16 ~~ministrator determines necessary.~~

17 ~~“(3) BUSINESS TRAINING PROGRAM FOR SERV-~~
18 ~~ICE DISABLED VETERANS.—For the Business Train-~~
19 ~~ing Program for Service Disabled Veterans under~~
20 ~~subsection (f)—~~

21 ~~“(A) the number of program participants~~
22 ~~using each component of the Business Training~~
23 ~~Program for Service Disabled Veterans;~~

1 “(B) the completion rates for each compo-
2 nent of the Business Training Program for
3 Service Disabled Veterans;

4 “(C) to the extent possible—

5 “(i) the demographics of program par-
6 ticipants, to include gender, age, race, rela-
7 tionship to military, and years of service;

8 “(ii) the number of small business
9 concerns formed or expanded with assist-
10 ance under the Business Training Program
11 for Service Disabled Veterans;

12 “(iii) the gross receipts of small busi-
13 ness concerns receiving assistance under
14 the Business Training Program for Service
15 Disabled Veterans;

16 “(iv) the number of jobs created with
17 assistance under the Business Training
18 Program for Service Disabled Veterans;

19 “(v) the number of referrals to other
20 resources and programs of the Administra-
21 tion;

22 “(vi) the number of referrals from
23 other resources and programs of the Ad-
24 ministration and other Federal agencies;

1 “(vii) the number of program partici-
2 pants receiving financial assistance under
3 loan programs of the Administration;

4 “(viii) the type and dollar amount of
5 financial assistance received by program
6 participants under loan programs of the
7 Administration; and

8 “(ix) the results of participant satis-
9 faction surveys, including a summary of
10 any comments received from program par-
11 ticipants;

12 “(D) an assessment of additional perform-
13 ance outcome measures for the Business Train-
14 ing Program for Service Disabled Veterans, as
15 identified by the Associate Administrator;

16 “(E) any recommendations of the Adminis-
17 trator for improvement of the Business Train-
18 ing Program for Service Disabled Veterans;

19 “(F) an explanation of how the Business
20 Training Program for Service Disabled Vet-
21 erans has been integrated with other transition
22 programs and related resources of the Adminis-
23 tration and other Federal agencies; and

24 “(G) any additional information the Ad-
25 ministrator determines necessary.

1 ~~“(4) VETERAN’S BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTER~~
 2 ~~PROGRAM.—For the veterans’ business outreach cen-~~
 3 ~~ter program under subsection (g)—~~

4 ~~“(A) an evaluation of the effectiveness of~~
 5 ~~the veterans’ business outreach center program~~
 6 ~~in each region of the Administration during the~~
 7 ~~most recent full fiscal year;~~

8 ~~“(B) for each veterans’ business outreach~~
 9 ~~center established or operated using financial~~
 10 ~~assistance provided under subsection (g)—~~

11 ~~“(i) the number of individuals receiv-~~
 12 ~~ing assistance from the veterans’ business~~
 13 ~~outreach center, including the number of~~
 14 ~~such individuals who are—~~

15 ~~“(I) veterans or spouses of vet-~~
 16 ~~erans;~~

17 ~~“(II) service-disabled veterans or~~
 18 ~~spouses of service-disabled veterans;~~

19 ~~“(III) Reservists or spouses of~~
 20 ~~Reservists; or~~

21 ~~“(IV) spouses of members of the~~
 22 ~~Armed Forces on active duty;~~

23 ~~“(ii) the average distance traveled by~~
 24 ~~veterans to access services at the veterans’~~
 25 ~~business outreach center;~~

1 “(iii) the number of small business
2 concerns formed by individuals receiving
3 assistance from the veterans’ business out-
4 reach center, including—

5 “(I) veterans or spouses of vet-
6 erans;

7 “(II) service-disabled veterans or
8 spouses of service-disabled veterans;

9 “(III) Reservists or spouses of
10 Reservists; or

11 “(IV) spouses of members of the
12 Armed Forces on active duty; and

13 “(iv) to the extent possible—

14 “(I) the gross receipts of small
15 business concerns receiving assistance
16 from the veterans’ business outreach
17 center;

18 “(II) the employment increases
19 or decreases of small business con-
20 cerns receiving assistance from the
21 veterans’ business outreach center;

22 “(III) the increases or decreases
23 in profits of small business concerns
24 receiving assistance from the veterans’
25 business outreach center;

1 “(IV) the number of referrals by
2 the veterans’ business outreach center
3 to other resources and programs of
4 the Administration;

5 “(V) the results of satisfaction
6 surveys, including a summary of any
7 comments received from small busi-
8 ness concerns receiving assistance
9 from the veterans’ business outreach
10 center;

11 “(VI) the number of small busi-
12 ness concerns receiving assistance
13 from the veterans’ business outreach
14 center that received financial assist-
15 ance under loan programs of the Ad-
16 ministration;

17 “(VII) the type and dollar
18 amount of financial assistance re-
19 ceived under loan programs of the Ad-
20 ministration by small business con-
21 cerns receiving assistance from the
22 veterans’ business outreach center;

23 “(VIII) the number of small
24 business concerns receiving assistance
25 from the veterans’ business outreach

1 center that obtained a Federal con-
2 tract through a small business con-
3 tracting program;

4 “(IX) the type and dollar amount
5 of the Federal contracts awarded to
6 small business concerns receiving as-
7 sistance from the veterans’ business
8 outreach center;

9 “(X) an assessment of additional
10 performance outcome measures for
11 the veterans’ business outreach cen-
12 ter, as identified by the Associate Ad-
13 ministrator; and

14 “(XI) the results of the examina-
15 tion of the veterans’ business outreach
16 center under subsection (g)(10);

17 “(C) any recommendations of the Adminis-
18 trator for improvement of the veterans’ busi-
19 ness outreach center program;

20 “(D) an explanation of how the veterans’
21 business outreach center program has been in-
22 tegrated with other transition programs and re-
23 lated resources of the Administration and other
24 Federal agencies; and

1 “(E) any additional information the Ad-
2 ministrators determine necessary.”

3 ~~“(5) OTHER ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS AD-~~
4 ~~MINISTERED BY THE OFFICE OF VETERANS BUSI-~~
5 ~~NESS DEVELOPMENT.—An evaluation of the effec-~~
6 ~~tiveness of any other activities and programs admin-~~
7 ~~istered by the Office of Veterans Business Develop-~~
8 ~~ment, including using the metrics identified in para-~~
9 ~~graphs (1) through (4).”.~~

10 ~~(b) FEDERAL SHARE FOR EXISTING PROGRAM.—~~

11 ~~(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term~~
12 ~~“existing award” means an award made under the~~
13 ~~Veterans’ Business Outreach Center Program of the~~
14 ~~Small Business Administration before the date of~~
15 ~~enactment of this Act that is in effect on the date~~
16 ~~of enactment of this Act.~~

17 ~~(2) EXCEPTION FROM PROVISION ON FAILURE~~
18 ~~TO OBTAIN NON-FEDERAL FUNDING.—During the 2-~~
19 ~~year period beginning on the date of enactment of~~
20 ~~this Act, subsection (g)(8)(D) of section 32 of the~~
21 ~~Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657b), as added by~~
22 ~~subsection (a), shall not apply to an existing award.~~

23 ~~(c) GAO REPORTS.—~~

24 ~~(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—~~

25 ~~(A) the term “covered individual” means—~~

- 1 (i) a veteran;
- 2 (ii) a service-disabled veteran;
- 3 (iii) a Reservist;
- 4 (iv) the spouse of an individual de-
- 5 scribed in clause (i), (ii), or (iii); or
- 6 (v) the spouse of a member of the
- 7 Armed Forces;

8 (B) the terms “Reservist”, “small business
 9 concern owned and controlled by veterans”, and
 10 “veterans’ business outreach center program”
 11 have the meanings given those terms in section
 12 32(g) of the Small Business Act, as added by
 13 subsection (a); and

14 (C) the terms “service-disabled veteran”,
 15 “small business concern”, and “veteran” have
 16 the meanings given those terms under section 3
 17 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

18 ~~(2) REPORT ON ACCESS TO CREDIT.—~~

19 ~~(A) IN GENERAL.—~~Not later than 1 year
 20 after the date of enactment of this Act, the
 21 Comptroller General of the United States shall
 22 submit a report regarding the ability of small
 23 business concerns owned and controlled by cov-
 24 ered individuals to access credit to—

1 (i) the Committee on Veterans' Af-
 2 fairs and the Committee on Small Business
 3 and Entrepreneurship of the Senate; and

4 (ii) the Committee on Veterans' Af-
 5 fairs and the Committee on Small Business
 6 of the House of Representatives.

7 (B) CONTENTS.—The report submitted
 8 under subparagraph (A) shall include an anal-
 9 ysis of—

10 (i) the sources of credit used by small
 11 business concerns owned and controlled by
 12 covered individuals and the percentage of
 13 the credit obtained by small business con-
 14 cerns owned and controlled by covered in-
 15 dividuals that is obtained from each
 16 source;

17 (ii) the default rate for small business
 18 concerns owned and controlled by covered
 19 individuals separately for each source of
 20 credit described in clause (i), as compared
 21 to the default rate for the source of credit
 22 for small business concerns generally;

23 (iii) the Federal lending programs
 24 available to provide credit to small busi-

1 ness concerns owned and controlled by cov-
2 ered individuals;

3 (iv) gaps, if any, in the availability of
4 credit for small business concerns owned
5 and controlled by covered individuals that
6 are not being filled by the Federal Govern-
7 ment or private sources;

8 (v) obstacles faced by covered individ-
9 uals in trying to access credit;

10 (vi) the extent to which deployment
11 and other military responsibilities affect
12 the credit history of veterans and Reserv-
13 ists; and

14 (vii) the extent to which covered indi-
15 viduals are aware of Federal programs tar-
16 geted towards helping covered individuals
17 access credit.

18 ~~(3) REPORT ON VETERANS' BUSINESS OUT-~~
19 REACH CENTER PROGRAM.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days
21 after the end of the second fiscal year beginning
22 after the date on which the veterans' business
23 outreach center program is established, the
24 Comptroller General of the United States shall
25 evaluate the effectiveness of the veterans' busi-

1 ness outreach center program, and submit to
2 Congress a report on the results of that evalua-
3 tion.

4 (B) CONTENTS.—The report submitted
5 under subparagraph (A) shall include—

6 (i) an assessment of—

7 (I) the use of amounts made
8 available to carry out the veterans'
9 business outreach center program;

10 (II) the effectiveness of the serv-
11 ices provided by each entity receiving
12 financial assistance under the vet-
13 erans' business outreach center pro-
14 gram;

15 (III) whether the services de-
16 scribed in subclause (II) are duplica-
17 tive of services provided by other vet-
18 erans service organizations, programs
19 of the Small Business Administration,
20 or programs of another Federal de-
21 partment or agency and, if so, rec-
22 ommendations regarding how to al-
23 leviate the duplication of the services;

24 (IV) whether there are areas of
25 the United States in which there are

not adequate entrepreneurial services for small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans and, if so, whether there is a veterans' business outreach center established under the veterans' business outreach center program providing services to that area; and

(V) whether there is a correlation between the proximity of a veterans' business outreach center to small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans and the rate of the use of the services of the veterans' business outreach center; and

(ii) recommendations, if any, for improving the veterans' business outreach center program.

**SEC. 3. IMPROVEMENTS TO BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND
ENTREPRENEURIAL PROGRAMS.**

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section—

(1) the terms “Administration” and “Administrator” mean the Small Business Administration and the Administrator thereof, respectively;

1 (2) the term “individual eligible for a veteran
2 entrepreneurial development program” means—

3 (A) a covered individual, as defined in sec-
4 tion 32(d)(1) of the Small Business Act, as
5 amended by section 2;

6 (B) a covered individual, as defined in sec-
7 tion 32(e)(1) of the Small Business Act, as
8 amended by section 2;

9 (C) a service-disabled veteran, as defined
10 in section 3(q)(1) of the Small Business Act
11 (15 U.S.C. 632(q)(1)); and

12 (D) an individual who qualifies to be the
13 owner of a small business concern owned and
14 controlled by veterans, as defined in section
15 32(g)(1)(C) of the Small Business Act, as
16 amended by section 2;

17 (3) the term “one-stop resource” means the
18 one-stop online resource established under sub-
19 section (c)(1); and

20 (4) the term “small business concern” has the
21 meaning given that term under section 3 of the
22 Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

23 (b) VETERAN PEER-TO-PEER NETWORKS.—Not later
24 than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the
25 Administrator shall establish guidelines to improve the

1 network of peer-to-peer counseling and mentoring for indi-
 2 viduals eligible for a veteran entrepreneurial development
 3 program relating to the business development and entre-
 4 preneurial programs of the Administration.

5 ~~(c) ONE-STOP ONLINE RESOURCE.—~~

6 ~~(1) IN GENERAL.—~~The Administrator shall es-
 7 tablish an online mechanism that serves as a one-
 8 stop online resource for veterans regarding all of the
 9 entrepreneurial development programs of the Admin-
 10 istration.

11 ~~(2) CONTENTS.—~~The one-stop resource shall
 12 include descriptions of each entrepreneurial program
 13 of the Administration (which shall include the pro-
 14 grams described in paragraph (3)), including—

15 ~~(A)~~ target client descriptions for each pro-
 16 gram;

17 ~~(B)~~ contact information for information on
 18 or assistance regarding each program from lo-
 19 cally, State-wide, and nationally available
 20 sources;

21 ~~(C)~~ a detailed description of the services
 22 available under each program;

23 ~~(D)~~ a description of any costs associated
 24 with the services under each program;

1 ~~(E)~~ an outline of program curriculums if
 2 training seminars or courses are offered; and

3 ~~(F)~~ other resource information that the
 4 Administrator determines appropriate and nec-
 5 essary for veteran entrepreneurs and veterans
 6 who own small business concerns; in order to
 7 ensure the one-stop online resource provides in-
 8 formation and resources necessary for a veteran
 9 beginning to develop a small business concern.

10 ~~(3)~~ PROGRAMS.—The programs identified and
 11 described under the one-stop resource shall in-
 12 clude—

13 ~~(A)~~ the small business development center
 14 program under section 21 of the Small Busi-
 15 ness Act ~~(15 U.S.C. 648)~~;

16 ~~(B)~~ the women’s business center program
 17 under section 29 of the Small Business Act ~~(15~~
 18 ~~U.S.C. 656)~~;

19 ~~(C)~~ the programs of the Office of Entre-
 20 preneurship Education of the Administration;

21 ~~(D)~~ the Boots to Business Program under
 22 section 32(d) of the Small Business Act, as
 23 amended by section 2(a) of this Act;

24 ~~(E)~~ the veterans’ business outreach center
 25 program under section 32(e) of the Small Busi-

ness Act, as amended by section 2(a) of this Act;

(F) the Service Corps of Retired Executives program authorized by section 8(b)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(b)(1)); and

(G) any other program of the Administration determined appropriate by the Administrator.

SEC. 4. REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE.

Section 32(e) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657b(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) REPORT.—Not less frequently than once each year, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report—

“(A) discussing the appointments made to and activities of the task force; and

“(B) identifying and outlining a plan for outreach and promotion of all the programs authorized under the Veterans Small Business Development Act of 2015, or an amendment made by that Act.”.

1 **SEC. 5. EDUCATIONAL TRAINING.**

2 Section 8(b) of the Small Business Act (~~15 U.S.C.~~
3 ~~637(b)~~) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (16), by striking “and” at the
5 end;

6 (2) in paragraph (17), by striking the period at
7 the end and inserting “; and”; and

8 (3) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(18) to make a grant to, or enter into a coop-
10 erative agreement with, a nonprofit entity to operate
11 an educational training program to provide assist-
12 ance to small business concerns owned and con-
13 trolled by veterans regarding how to increase the
14 likelihood of being awarded contracts with the Fed-
15 eral Government—

16 “(A) which shall be made to or entered
17 into with a nonprofit entity that has a track
18 record of successfully providing educational and
19 job training services to targeted veterans popu-
20 lations in diverse locations;

21 “(B) under which the nonprofit entity shall
22 be required to match any Federal funds re-
23 ceived for the program with State, local, or pri-
24 vate sector funds; and

25 “(C) under which the nonprofit entity shall
26 use a diverse group of professional service ex-

perts, such as Federal, State, and local contracting experts and private sector industry experts with first-hand experience in Federal Government contracting, to provide instruction to small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans.”.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Veterans Small Business Ownership Improvements Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. VETERANS’ BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTER PROGRAM; OFFICE OF VETERANS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 32 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657b) is amended by striking subsections (d), (e), and (f) and inserting the following:

“(d) BOOTS TO BUSINESS PROGRAM.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

“(A) the term ‘covered individual’ means—

“(i) a member of the Armed Forces, without regard to whether the member is participating in the Transition Assistance Program of the Department of Defense;

“(ii) an individual who is participating in the Transition Assistance Program of the Department of Defense;

1 “(iii) an individual who—

2 “(I) served on active duty in any
3 branch of the Armed Forces, including
4 the National Guard and Reserves; and

5 “(II) was discharged or released
6 from such service under conditions
7 other than dishonorable; and

8 “(iv) a spouse or dependent of an indi-
9 vidual described in clause (i), (ii), or (iii);
10 and

11 “(B) the term ‘Vet Center’ means a center
12 for readjustment counseling and related mental
13 health services for veterans under section 1712A
14 of title 38, United States Code.

15 “(2) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—There is established a
16 program to be known as the ‘Boots to Business Pro-
17 gram’ to provide entrepreneurship training to covered
18 individuals, which shall be carried out by the Admin-
19 istrator.

20 “(3) *GOALS.*—The goals of the Boots to Business
21 Program are to—

22 “(A) provide exposure, introduction, and
23 in-depth training for covered individuals inter-
24 ested in business ownership; and

1 “(B) provide covered individuals with the
 2 tools and knowledge necessary to identify a busi-
 3 ness opportunity, draft a business plan, identify
 4 sources of capital, connect with local small busi-
 5 ness resources, and launch a small business con-
 6 cern.

7 “(4) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—*The Boots to Business*
 9 *Program may include—*

10 “(i) a brief presentation providing ex-
 11 posure to the considerations involved in self-
 12 employment and small business ownership;

13 “(ii) an online, self-study course fo-
 14 cused on the basic skills of entrepreneurship,
 15 the language of business, and the consider-
 16 ations involved in self-employment and
 17 small business ownership;

18 “(iii) an in-person classroom instruc-
 19 tion component providing an introduction
 20 to the foundations of self employment and
 21 small business ownership; and

22 “(iv) in-depth training delivered
 23 through online instruction, including an on-
 24 line course that leads to the creation of a
 25 business plan.

1 “(B) *COLLABORATION.*—*The Administrator*
2 *may—*

3 “(i) *collaborate with public and pri-*
4 *vate entities to develop a course curriculum*
5 *for the Boots to Business Program; and*

6 “(ii) *modify program components in*
7 *coordination with entities participating in*
8 *the Warriors in Transition programs, as de-*
9 *defined in section 738(f) of the National De-*
10 *fense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year*
11 *2013 (10 U.S.C. 1071 note).*

12 “(C) *UTILIZATION OF RESOURCE PART-*
13 *NERS.—*

14 “(i) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Associate Ad-*
15 *ministrator shall—*

16 “(I) *ensure that veterans’ business*
17 *outreach centers regularly participate,*
18 *on a nationwide basis, in the Boots to*
19 *Business program; and*

20 “(II) *to the maximum extent*
21 *practicable, use a variety of other re-*
22 *source partners and entities in admin-*
23 *istering the Boots to Business program.*

24 “(ii) *GRANT AUTHORITY.*—*In carrying*
25 *out clause (i), the Associate Administrator*

1 *may make grants to veterans' business out-*
2 *reach centers, other resource partners, and*
3 *other entities to carry out components of the*
4 *Boots to Business Program.*

5 “(D) *AVAILABILITY TO DOD.—The Adminis-*
6 *trator shall—*

7 “(i) *make available electronically in-*
8 *formation regarding the Boots to Business*
9 *Program and all course materials created*
10 *for the Boots to Business Program to the*
11 *Secretary of Defense for inclusion on the*
12 *website of the Department of Defense relat-*
13 *ing to the Transition Assistance Program*
14 *and in the Transition Assistance Program*
15 *manual and other publications and mate-*
16 *rials available for distribution from the Sec-*
17 *retary of Defense; and*

18 “(ii) *fully participate in the inter-*
19 *agency governance of the Transition Assist-*
20 *ance Program.*

21 “(E) *AVAILABILITY TO VETERANS AF-*
22 *FAIRS.—In consultation with the Secretary of*
23 *Veterans Affairs, the Associate Administrator*
24 *shall make available outreach materials regard-*
25 *ing the Boots to Business Program for distribu-*

tion and display at local facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs (including medical centers, community-based outpatient clinics, Vet Centers, and other facilities determined appropriate by the Associate Administrator and the Secretary), which shall, at minimum—

“(i) describe the Boots to Business Program, including a description of services provided; and

“(ii) include eligibility requirements for participating in the Boots to Business Program.

“(5) REVIEW.—The Inspector General of the Administration shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives an annual report regarding the awarding of grants under the Boots to Business Program.

“(e) WOMEN VETERANS BUSINESS TRAINING PROGRAM.—

“(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ‘covered individual’ means an individual who—

“(A) is female; and

“(B) is—

“(i) a member of the Armed Forces;

1 “(ii) a veteran; or

2 “(iii) the spouse or dependent of a
3 member of the Armed Forces or a veteran.

4 “(2) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—The Administrator shall
5 establish a program, to be known as the Women Vet-
6 erans Business Training Program, to provide specific
7 training for covered individuals interested in explor-
8 ing careers as owners of small business concerns.

9 “(3) *GOALS.*—The goals of the Women Veterans
10 Business Training Program are to—

11 “(A) help covered individuals by providing
12 the tools to become successful entrepreneurs; and

13 “(B) integrate the leadership, integrity,
14 focus, and drive of covered individuals into a
15 premier education training program taught by
16 accomplished entrepreneurs and entrepreneur-
17 ship educators from across the United States.

18 “(4) *PROGRAM COMPONENTS.*—

19 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—The Women Veterans
20 Business Training Program may include—

21 “(i) an online, self-study course focused
22 on the basic skills of entrepreneurship and
23 the language of business;

24 “(ii) a conference where participants
25 are exposed to accomplished entrepreneurs

1 *and entrepreneurship educators from across*
 2 *the United States; and*

3 “(iii) a plan to provide ongoing sup-
 4 port and mentorship.

5 “(B) COLLABORATION.—*The Administrator*
 6 *may collaborate with public and private entities*
 7 *to develop a course curriculum for the Women*
 8 *Veterans Business Training Program.*

9 “(5) WOMEN VETERANS BUSINESS TRAINING.—
 10 *The Associate Administrator shall—*

11 “(A) compile information on resources
 12 available to women veterans for business train-
 13 ing, including resources for—

14 “(i) vocational and technical edu-
 15 cation;

16 “(ii) general business skills, such as
 17 marketing and accounting; and

18 “(iii) business assistance programs tar-
 19 geted to women veterans;

20 “(B) disseminate the information compiled
 21 under subparagraph (A) through veterans’ busi-
 22 ness outreach centers and women’s business cen-
 23 ters; and

24 “(C) in consultation with the Secretary of
 25 Veterans Affairs, make available outreach mate-

1 *rials regarding the Women Veterans Business*
 2 *Training Program for distribution and display*
 3 *at local facilities of the Department of Veterans*
 4 *Affairs (including medical centers, community-*
 5 *based outpatient clinics, Vet Centers (as defined*
 6 *in subsection (d)(1)), and other facilities deter-*
 7 *mined appropriate by the Associate Adminis-*
 8 *trator and the Secretary), which shall, at a min-*
 9 *imum—*

10 *“(i) describe the Women Veterans Busi-*
 11 *ness Training Program, including a de-*
 12 *scription of services provided; and*

13 *“(ii) include eligibility requirements*
 14 *for participating in the Women Veterans*
 15 *Business Training Program.*

16 *“(6) GRANT AUTHORITY.—The Associate Admin-*
 17 *istrator may make grants to veterans’ business out-*
 18 *reach centers, women’s business centers, and other en-*
 19 *tities, including other resource partners, to carry out*
 20 *components of the Women Veterans Business Training*
 21 *Program.*

22 *“(f) BUSINESS TRAINING PROGRAM FOR SERVICE DIS-*
 23 *ABLED VETERANS.—*

24 *“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall es-*
 25 *tablish a Business Training Program for Service Dis-*

1 *abled Veterans to provide specific training for service-*
 2 *disabled veterans interested in exploring careers as*
 3 *owners of small business concerns.*

4 “(2) *GOALS.—The goals of the Business Train-*
 5 *ing Program for Service Disabled Veterans are to—*

6 “(A) *help service-disabled veterans by pro-*
 7 *viding the tools to become successful entre-*
 8 *preneurs; and*

9 “(B) *integrate the leadership, integrity,*
 10 *focus, and drive of service-disabled veterans into*
 11 *a premier education training program taught by*
 12 *accomplished entrepreneurs and entrepreneur-*
 13 *ship educators from across the United States.*

14 “(3) *PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—*

15 “(A) *IN GENERAL.—The Business Training*
 16 *Program for Service Disabled Veterans may in-*
 17 *clude—*

18 “(i) *an online, self-study course focused*
 19 *on the basic skills of entrepreneurship and*
 20 *the language of business;*

21 “(ii) *a conference where participants*
 22 *are exposed to accomplished entrepreneurs*
 23 *and entrepreneurship educators from across*
 24 *the United States; and*

1 “(iii) a plan to provide ongoing sup-
2 port and mentorship.

3 “(B) *COLLABORATION.*—*The Administrator*
4 *may collaborate with public and private entities*
5 *to develop a course curriculum for the Business*
6 *Training Program for Service Disabled Veterans.*

7 “(4) *AVAILABILITY TO VETERANS AFFAIRS.*—*In*
8 *consultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs,*
9 *the Associate Administrator shall make available out-*
10 *reach materials regarding the Business Training Pro-*
11 *gram for Service Disabled Veterans for distribution*
12 *and display at local facilities of the Department of*
13 *Veterans Affairs (including medical centers, commu-*
14 *nity-based outpatient clinics, Vet Centers (as defined*
15 *in subsection (d)(1)), and other facilities determined*
16 *appropriate by the Associate Administrator and the*
17 *Secretary), which shall, at minimum—*

18 “(A) *describe the Business Training Pro-*
19 *gram for Service Disabled Veterans, including a*
20 *description of services provided; and*

21 “(B) *include eligibility requirements for*
22 *participating in the Business Training Program*
23 *for Service Disabled Veterans.*

24 “(5) *GRANT AUTHORITY.*—*The Associate Admin-*
25 *istrator may make grants to veterans’ business out-*

1 *reach centers and other entities, including other re-*
 2 *source partners, to carry out components of the Busi-*
 3 *ness Training Program for Service Disabled Veterans.*

4 *“(g) VETERANS’ BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTER PRO-*
 5 *GRAM.—*

6 *“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—*

7 *“(A) the term ‘active duty’ has the meaning*
 8 *given that term in section 101 of title 10, United*
 9 *States Code;*

10 *“(B) the term ‘Reservist’ means a member*
 11 *of a reserve component of the Armed Forces, as*
 12 *described in section 10101 of title 10, United*
 13 *States Code;*

14 *“(C) the term ‘small business concern owned*
 15 *and controlled by veterans’—*

16 *“(i) has the meaning given that term*
 17 *in section 3(q); and*

18 *“(ii) includes a small business con-*
 19 *cern—*

20 *“(I) not less than 51 percent of*
 21 *which is owned by 1 or more spouses*
 22 *of veterans or, in the case of any pub-*
 23 *licly owned business, not less than 51*
 24 *percent of the stock of which is owned*
 25 *by 1 or more spouses of veterans; and*

1 “(II) the management and daily
 2 business operations of which are con-
 3 trolled by 1 or more spouses of vet-
 4 erans;

5 “(D) the term ‘spouse’, relating to a member
 6 of the Armed Forces on active duty, veteran,
 7 service-disabled veteran, or Reservist, includes an
 8 individual who, on the date on which the mem-
 9 ber of the Armed Forces on active duty, veteran,
 10 service-disabled veteran, or Reservist died, is the
 11 spouse of the member of the Armed Forces on ac-
 12 tive duty, veteran, service-disabled veteran, or
 13 Reservist; and

14 “(E) the term ‘veterans’ business outreach
 15 center program’ means the program established
 16 under paragraph (2)(A).

17 “(2) PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, act-
 19 ing through the Associate Administrator, shall
 20 establish a veterans’ business outreach center
 21 program, under which the Associate Adminis-
 22 trator may provide financial assistance to edu-
 23 cational institutions, veterans’ nonprofit commu-
 24 nity-based organizations, and Federal, State,
 25 and local departments and agencies to conduct a

1 5-year project for the benefit of small business
 2 concerns owned and controlled by veterans,
 3 which, upon application by the entity receiving
 4 financial assistance, may be renewed for 1 or
 5 more additional 5-year periods.

6 “(B) *FORM OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.*—
 7 Financial assistance under this subsection may
 8 be in the form of a grant, a contract, or a coop-
 9 erative agreement.

10 “(3) *VETERANS’ BUSINESS OUTREACH CEN-*
 11 *TERS.*—Each entity that receives financial assistance
 12 under this subsection shall establish or operate a vet-
 13 erans’ business outreach center (which may include
 14 establishing or operating satellite offices in the region
 15 described in paragraph (5) served by that entity) that
 16 provides to veterans (including service-disabled vet-
 17 erans), Reservists, and the spouses of members of the
 18 Armed Forces on active duty, veterans (including
 19 service-disabled veterans), and Reservists—

20 “(A) financial advice, including training
 21 and counseling on applying for and securing
 22 business credit and investment capital, pre-
 23 paring and presenting financial statements, and
 24 managing cash flow and other financial oper-
 25 ations of a small business concern;

1 “(B) management advice, including train-
 2 ing and counseling on the planning, organiza-
 3 tion, staffing, direction, and control of each
 4 major activity and function of a small business
 5 concern;

6 “(C) technical assistance, training, and
 7 counseling to assist in identifying and obtaining
 8 Federal procurement opportunities;

9 “(D) marketing advice, including training
 10 and counseling on identifying and segmenting
 11 domestic and international market opportuni-
 12 ties, preparing and executing marketing plans,
 13 developing pricing strategies, locating contract
 14 opportunities, negotiating contracts, and using
 15 public relations and advertising techniques; and

16 “(E) other advice, including training and
 17 counseling.

18 “(4) APPLICATION.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An entity desiring to
 20 receive financial assistance under this subsection
 21 shall submit an application to the Associate Ad-
 22 ministrator at such time and in such manner as
 23 the Associate Administrator may require.

24 “(B) 5-YEAR PLAN.—Each application de-
 25 scribed in subparagraph (A) shall include a 5-

1 *year plan on proposed fundraising and training*
2 *activities relating to the veterans' business out-*
3 *reach center.*

4 *“(C) DETERMINATION AND NOTIFICATION.—*
5 *Not later than 90 days after the date on which*
6 *applications for a fiscal year are required to be*
7 *submitted under subparagraph (A), the Associate*
8 *Administrator shall approve or deny any appli-*
9 *cation submitted and notify the applicant of the*
10 *determination.*

11 *“(D) AVAILABILITY OF APPLICATION.—The*
12 *Associate Administrator shall make every effort*
13 *to make the application under subparagraph (A)*
14 *available online.*

15 *“(5) ELIGIBILITY.—The Associate Administrator*
16 *may select to receive financial assistance under this*
17 *subsection—*

18 *“(A) a Veterans' Business Outreach Center*
19 *established by the Administrator under section*
20 *8(b)(17) on or before the day before the date of*
21 *enactment of this subsection; or*

22 *“(B) educational institutions, veterans'*
23 *nonprofit community-based organizations, and*
24 *Federal, State, and local departments and agen-*
25 *cies located in various regions of the United*

1 *States, as the Associate Administrator deter-*
 2 *mines is appropriate.*

3 “(6) *SELECTION CRITERIA.*—

4 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Associate Adminis-*
 5 *trator shall establish selection criteria, stated in*
 6 *terms of relative importance, to evaluate and*
 7 *rank applicants under paragraph (5)(B) for fi-*
 8 *nancial assistance under this subsection.*

9 “(B) *CRITERIA.*—*The selection criteria es-*
 10 *tablished under this paragraph shall include—*

11 “(i) *the experience of the applicant in*
 12 *conducting programs or ongoing efforts de-*
 13 *signed to impart or upgrade the business*
 14 *skills of veterans (including service-disabled*
 15 *veterans), Reservists, and the spouses of*
 16 *members of the Armed Forces on active*
 17 *duty, veterans (including service-disabled*
 18 *veterans), and Reservists who own or may*
 19 *own small business concerns;*

20 “(ii) *for an applicant for initial finan-*
 21 *cial assistance under this subsection—*

22 “(I) *the ability of the applicant to*
 23 *begin operating a veterans’ business*
 24 *outreach center within a minimum*
 25 *amount of time; and*

1 “(II) the geographic region to be
2 served by the veterans’ business out-
3 reach center;

4 “(iii) the demonstrated ability of the
5 applicant to—

6 “(I) provide managerial coun-
7 seling and technical assistance to en-
8 trepreneurs; and

9 “(II) coordinate services provided
10 by veterans service organizations and
11 other public or private entities;

12 “(iv) the demonstrated ability to lever-
13 age and coordinate with existing resources
14 and infrastructure of the Administration;
15 and

16 “(v) for any applicant for a renewal of
17 financial assistance under this subsection,
18 the results of the most recent examination
19 under paragraph (11) of the veterans’ busi-
20 ness outreach center operated by the appli-
21 cant.

22 “(C) CRITERIA PUBLICLY AVAILABLE.—The
23 Associate Administrator shall—

1 “(i) *make publicly available the selec-*
 2 *tion criteria established under this para-*
 3 *graph;*

4 “(ii) *include the criteria in each solici-*
 5 *tation for applications for financial assist-*
 6 *ance under this subsection;*

7 “(iii) *make every effort to ensure re-*
 8 *gional accessibility and geographic rep-*
 9 *resentation in awarding financial assist-*
 10 *ance under this subsection; and*

11 “(iv) *to the extent practicable, make*
 12 *publicly available the approximate antici-*
 13 *pated date for the determination of award*
 14 *recipients by the Administration and the*
 15 *anticipated timing of disbursement.*

16 “(7) *AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE.—The amount of*
 17 *financial assistance provided under this subsection to*
 18 *an entity for each fiscal year shall be not less than*
 19 *\$100,000.*

20 “(8) *FEDERAL SHARE.—*

21 “(A) *IN GENERAL.—*

22 “(i) *INITIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—*
 23 *Except as provided in clause (ii) and sub-*
 24 *paragraph (E), an entity that receives fi-*
 25 *nancial assistance under this subsection*

1 *shall provide non-Federal contributions for*
2 *the operation of the veterans' business out-*
3 *reach center established by the entity in an*
4 *amount equal to—*

5 *“(I) in each of the first and sec-*
6 *ond years of the project, not less than*
7 *33 percent of the amount of the finan-*
8 *cial assistance received under this sub-*
9 *section; and*

10 *“(II) in each of the third through*
11 *fifth years of the project, not less than*
12 *50 percent of the amount of the finan-*
13 *cial assistance received under this sub-*
14 *section.*

15 *“(ii) RENEWALS.—An entity that re-*
16 *ceives a renewal of financial assistance*
17 *under this subsection shall provide non-Fed-*
18 *eral contributions for the operation of the*
19 *veterans' business outreach center estab-*
20 *lished by the entity in an amount equal to*
21 *not less than 50 percent of the amount of*
22 *the financial assistance received under this*
23 *subsection.*

24 *“(B) FORM OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—Not*
25 *more than 50 percent of the non-Federal share*

1 for a project carried out using financial assist-
2 ance under this subsection may be in the form
3 of in-kind contributions.

4 “(C) *TIMING OF DISBURSEMENT.*—*The As-*
5 *sociate Administrator may disburse not more*
6 *than 25 percent of the financial assistance*
7 *awarded to an entity before the entity obtains*
8 *the non-Federal share required under this para-*
9 *graph with respect to that award.*

10 “(D) *FAILURE TO OBTAIN NON-FEDERAL*
11 *FUNDING.*—

12 “(i) *IN GENERAL.*—*If an entity that*
13 *receives financial assistance under this sub-*
14 *section fails to obtain the non-Federal share*
15 *required under this paragraph during 2*
16 *consecutive fiscal years, the entity may not*
17 *receive a disbursement under this subsection*
18 *in a subsequent fiscal year or a disburse-*
19 *ment for any other project funded by the*
20 *Administration, unless the Administrator*
21 *makes a written determination that the en-*
22 *tity will be able to obtain a non-Federal*
23 *contribution.*

24 “(ii) *RESTORATION.*—*An entity pro-*
25 *hibited from receiving a disbursement under*

1 *clause (i) in a fiscal year may receive fi-*
 2 *nancial assistance in a subsequent fiscal*
 3 *year if the entity obtains the non-Federal*
 4 *share required under this paragraph for the*
 5 *subsequent fiscal year.*

6 “(E) *WAIVER OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.*—

7 “(i) *IN GENERAL.*—Upon request by an
 8 *entity, and in accordance with this sub-*
 9 *paragraph, the Administrator may waive,*
 10 *in whole or in part, the requirement to ob-*
 11 *tain non-Federal funds under subparagraph*
 12 *(A) for a fiscal year. The Administrator*
 13 *may not waive the requirement for an enti-*
 14 *ty to obtain non-Federal funds under this*
 15 *subparagraph for more than a total of 2 fis-*
 16 *cal years.*

17 “(ii) *CONSIDERATIONS.*—In deter-
 18 *mining whether to waive the requirement to*
 19 *obtain non-Federal funds under this sub-*
 20 *paragraph, the Administrator shall con-*
 21 *sider—*

22 “(I) *the economic conditions af-*
 23 *fecting the entity;*

24 “(II) *the impact a waiver under*
 25 *this subparagraph would have on the*

1 *credibility of the veterans' business out-*
 2 *reach center program;*

3 *“(III) the demonstrated ability of*
 4 *the entity to raise non-Federal funds;*
 5 *and*

6 *“(IV) the performance of the enti-*
 7 *ty.*

8 *“(iii) LIMITATION.—The Adminis-*
 9 *trator may not waive the requirement to ob-*
 10 *tain non-Federal funds under this subpara-*
 11 *graph if granting the waiver would under-*
 12 *mine the credibility of the veterans' business*
 13 *outreach center program.*

14 *“(9) AFFILIATION WITH SMALL BUSINESS DEVEL-*
 15 *OPMENT CENTERS.—*

16 *“(A) IN GENERAL.—An entity receiving fi-*
 17 *nancial assistance under this subsection shall*
 18 *enter into an agreement to affiliate with a small*
 19 *business development center for purposes of car-*
 20 *rying out the activities of the entity using the fi-*
 21 *nancial assistance.*

22 *“(B) CONSISTENCY WITH AGREEMENT.—*
 23 *The terms of an agreement to affiliate under sub-*
 24 *paragraph (A) shall be in accordance with the*
 25 *terms of any agreement between the applicable*

1 *small business development center and the Ad-*
 2 *ministration.*

3 “(10) *CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—A veterans’ busi-*
 4 *ness outreach center may enter into a contract with*
 5 *a Federal department or agency to provide specific*
 6 *assistance to veterans, service-disabled veterans, Re-*
 7 *servists, or the spouses of members of the Armed*
 8 *Forces on active duty, veterans, service-disabled vet-*
 9 *erans, or Reservists with prior written approval of*
 10 *the Associate Administrator. Performance of such con-*
 11 *tract shall not hinder the veterans’ business outreach*
 12 *center in carrying out the terms of the grant received*
 13 *by the veterans’ business outreach center from the Ad-*
 14 *ministrator.*

15 “(11) *EXAMINATION AND DETERMINATION OF*
 16 *PERFORMANCE.—*

17 “(A) *EXAMINATION.—*

18 “(i) *IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180*
 19 *days after the date of enactment of this sub-*
 20 *section and every year thereafter, the Asso-*
 21 *ciate Administrator shall conduct an an-*
 22 *nuual examination of the programs and fi-*
 23 *nances of each veterans’ business outreach*
 24 *center established or operated using finan-*
 25 *cial assistance under this subsection.*

1 “(ii) *FACTORS.*—*In conducting the ex-*
2 *amination under clause (i), the Associate*
3 *Administrator shall consider whether the*
4 *veterans’ business outreach center has*
5 *failed—*

6 “(I) *to provide the information*
7 *required to be provided under subpara-*
8 *graph (B), or the information provided*
9 *by the center is inadequate;*

10 “(II) *to comply with a require-*
11 *ment for participation in the veterans’*
12 *business outreach center program, as*
13 *determined by the Associate Adminis-*
14 *trator, including—*

15 “(aa) *failure to acquire or*
16 *properly document a non-Federal*
17 *share;*

18 “(bb) *failure to establish an*
19 *appropriate partnership or pro-*
20 *gram for marketing and outreach*
21 *to small business concerns;*

22 “(cc) *failure to achieve re-*
23 *sults described in a financial as-*
24 *sistance agreement; and*

1 “(dd) failure to provide to
2 the Administrator a description of
3 the amount and sources of any
4 non-Federal funding received by
5 the center;

6 “(III) to carry out the 5-year
7 plan under in paragraph (4)(B);

8 “(IV) to meet the eligibility re-
9 quirements under paragraph (5); or

10 “(V) to serve small business con-
11 cerns in the geographic region served
12 by the veterans’ business outreach cen-
13 ter.

14 “(B) INFORMATION PROVIDED.—In the
15 course of an examination under subparagraph
16 (A), the veterans’ business outreach center shall
17 provide to the Associate Administrator—

18 “(i) an itemized cost breakdown of ac-
19 tual expenditures for costs incurred during
20 the most recent full fiscal year, including
21 the amount spent on administrative ex-
22 penses;

23 “(ii) documentation of the amount of
24 non-Federal contributions obtained and ex-
25 pended by the veterans’ business outreach

center during the most recent full fiscal year;

“(iii) with respect to any in-kind contribution under paragraph (8)(B), verification of the existence and valuation of such contribution; and

“(iv) any additional information the Associate Administrator determines necessary.

“(C) DETERMINATION OF PERFORMANCE.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Associate Administrator shall analyze the results of each examination under subparagraph (A) and, based on that analysis, make a determination regarding the performance of the programs and finances of each veterans’ business outreach center.

“(ii) NONDELEGATION OF DETERMINATION.—The duty under clause (i) to make a determination regarding the performance of the programs and finances of a veterans’ business outreach center may not be delegated.

“(D) DISCONTINUATION OF FUNDING.—

1 “(i) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Associate Ad-*
 2 *ministrator may discontinue an award of*
 3 *financial assistance to an entity at any*
 4 *time for poor performance as determined*
 5 *under subparagraph (C).*

6 “(ii) *RESTORATION.*—*The Associate*
 7 *Administrator may continue to provide fi-*
 8 *nancial assistance to an entity in a subse-*
 9 *quent fiscal year if the Associate Adminis-*
 10 *trator determines under subparagraph (C)*
 11 *that the veterans’ business outreach center*
 12 *has taken appropriate measures to improve*
 13 *its performance and it is viable.*

14 “(12) *COORDINATION OF EFFORTS AND CON-*
 15 *SULTATION.*—

16 “(A) *COORDINATION AND CONSULTATION.*—
 17 *To the extent practicable, the Associate Adminis-*
 18 *trator and each entity that receives financial as-*
 19 *sistance under this subsection shall—*

20 “(i) *coordinate outreach and other ac-*
 21 *tivities with other programs of the Adminis-*
 22 *tration and the programs of other Federal*
 23 *agencies, including programs at local facili-*
 24 *ties of the Department of Veterans Affairs;*

1 “(ii) *consult with technical representa-*
 2 *tives of the district offices of the Adminis-*
 3 *tration in carrying out activities using fi-*
 4 *nancial assistance under this subsection;*
 5 *and*

6 “(iii) *provide information to the vet-*
 7 *erans business development officers des-*
 8 *ignated under subparagraph (B) and co-*
 9 *ordinate with the veterans business develop-*
 10 *ment officers to increase the ability of the*
 11 *veterans business development officers to*
 12 *provide services throughout the area served*
 13 *by the veterans business development offi-*
 14 *cers.*

15 “(B) *VETERANS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT*
 16 *OFFICERS.—*

17 “(i) *DESIGNATION.—The Adminis-*
 18 *trator shall designate not fewer than 1 indi-*
 19 *vidual in each district office of the Admin-*
 20 *istration as a veterans business development*
 21 *officer, who shall communicate and coordi-*
 22 *nate activities of the district office with en-*
 23 *tities that receive financial assistance under*
 24 *this subsection.*

1 “(ii) *INITIAL DESIGNATION.*—*The first*
 2 *individual in each district office of the Ad-*
 3 *ministration designated by the Adminis-*
 4 *trator as a veterans business development*
 5 *officer under clause (i) shall be an indi-*
 6 *vidual that is employed by the Administra-*
 7 *tion on the date of enactment of this sub-*
 8 *section.*

9 “(13) *EXISTING CONTRACTS.*—*An award of fi-*
 10 *nancial assistance under this subsection shall not void*
 11 *any contract or cooperative agreement between any*
 12 *entity and the Administration or grant to any entity*
 13 *from the Administration that is in effect on the date*
 14 *of such award.*

15 “(h) *VETERANS BUSINESS OWNERS INITIATIVE PILOT*
 16 *PROGRAM.*—

17 “(1) *DEFINITIONS.*—*In this subsection—*

18 “(A) *the term ‘covered individual’ means—*

19 “(i) *a member of the Armed Forces on*
 20 *active duty, as defined in section 101(d)(1)*
 21 *of title 10, United States Code;*

22 “(ii) *a member of the Armed Forces*
 23 *who is participating in the Transition As-*
 24 *sistance Program of the Department of De-*
 25 *fense;*

1 “(iii) a member of a reserve component
2 of the Armed Forces named in section
3 10101 of title 10, United States Code;

4 “(iv) a veteran; and

5 “(v) a spouse or dependent of an indi-
6 vidual described in clause (i), (ii), (iii), or
7 (iv);

8 “(B) the term ‘institution of higher edu-
9 cation’ has the meaning given the term in sec-
10 tion 102 of the Higher Education Act of 1965
11 (20 U.S.C. 1002); and

12 “(C) the term ‘pilot program’ means the
13 Veterans Business Owners Initiative Pilot Pro-
14 gram established under paragraph (2).

15 “(2) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—Not later than 90 days
16 after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Ad-
17 ministrator shall establish a pilot program, to be
18 known as the Veterans Business Owners Initiative
19 Pilot Program, to provide grants to nonprofit entities
20 to carry out peer support groups that provide train-
21 ing to covered individuals interested in exploring ca-
22 reers as owners of small business concerns.

23 “(3) *GOALS.*—The goals of the pilot program
24 are—

1 “(A) to facilitate training for covered indi-
 2 viduals, staff, and mentors to develop the assist-
 3 ance to be provided through peer support groups
 4 under the pilot program, including education,
 5 coaching, peer support, business mentoring, and
 6 benefits counseling; and

7 “(B) to arrange for external assistance, in-
 8 cluding micro-financing, for covered individuals.

9 “(4) APPLICATION.—A nonprofit entity that de-
 10 sires a grant under the pilot program shall submit to
 11 the Administrator an application at such time, in
 12 such manner, and containing such information as the
 13 Administrator may require.

14 “(5) PILOT PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—Activities
 15 carried out through a peer support group under the
 16 pilot program may include—

17 “(A) providing assistance to covered indi-
 18 viduals to identify their passions and skill sets
 19 with respect to business, including coaching and
 20 mentorship for covered individuals who suffer
 21 from the consequences of being at war;

22 “(B) providing exposure to covered individ-
 23 uals to the considerations involved in self-em-
 24 ployment and small business ownership;

1 “(C) *an instruction component that pro-*
 2 *vides an introduction to the foundations of self-*
 3 *employment and small business ownership; and*

4 “(D) *in-depth training that leads to the cre-*
 5 *ation of a business plan.*

6 “(6) *COLLABORATION.—The Administrator*
 7 *may—*

8 “(A) *collaborate with public and private en-*
 9 *tities to develop a course initiative for peer sup-*
 10 *port groups carried out under the pilot program;*
 11 *and*

12 “(B) *design the course curriculum to allow*
 13 *covered individuals to receive college credit or a*
 14 *certificate through an institution of higher edu-*
 15 *cation upon completion of all components of the*
 16 *curriculum.*

17 “(i) *ONLINE COORDINATION.—*

18 “(1) *DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term*
 19 *‘veterans’ assistance provider’ means—*

20 “(A) *a veterans’ business outreach center es-*
 21 *tablished under subsection (g);*

22 “(B) *an employee of the Administration as-*
 23 *signed to the Office of Veterans Business Devel-*
 24 *opment; or*

1 “(C) a veterans business development officer
2 designated under subsection (g)(12)(B).

3 “(2) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—*The Associate Adminis-*
4 *trator shall establish an online mechanism to—*

5 “(A) provide information that assists vet-
6 erans’ assistance providers in carrying out the
7 activities of the veterans’ assistance providers;
8 and

9 “(B) coordinate and leverage the work of the
10 veterans’ assistance providers, including by al-
11 lowing a veterans’ assistance provider to—

12 “(i) distribute best practices and other
13 materials;

14 “(ii) communicate with other veterans’
15 assistance providers regarding the activities
16 of the veterans’ assistance provider on behalf
17 of veterans; and

18 “(iii) pose questions to and request
19 input from other veterans’ assistance pro-
20 viders.

21 “(j) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—*There is*
22 *authorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2016*
23 *through 2020—*

24 “(1) \$2,500,000 to carry out subsection (g);

1 “(2) \$8,000,000 to carry out subsections (d), (e),
2 and (f); and

3 “(3) such sums as may be necessary to carry out
4 subsection (h).

5 “(k) *LIMITATIONS ON USE FOR OVERSEAS TRAVEL.*—

6 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Financial assistance made*
7 *available under this section may not be used for trav-*
8 *el outside of the United States (as defined in section*
9 *202(a)(7) of the State Department Basic Authorities*
10 *Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 4302(a)(7)) until after the*
11 *date on which the Administrator submits to the Com-*
12 *mittee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of*
13 *the Senate and the Committee on Small Business of*
14 *the House of Representatives a plan describing how*
15 *services will provided by recipients, and how the Ad-*
16 *ministrator will oversee the provision of services, out-*
17 *side of the United States.*

18 “(2) *MAXIMUM AMOUNT.*—*After the date de-*
19 *scribed in paragraph (1), a recipient of financial as-*
20 *istance made available under this section may use*
21 *not more than 5 percent of the amount of the finan-*
22 *cial assistance for travel outside of the United States.*

23 “(l) *REPORTS.*—*Not later than 180 days after the date*
24 *of enactment of this subsection and every year thereafter,*
25 *the Associate Administrator shall submit to the Committee*

1 *on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and*
 2 *the Committee on Small Business of the House of Represent-*
 3 *atives a report on the performance and effectiveness for the*
 4 *programs authorized under this section, which may be in-*
 5 *cluded as part of another report submitted to the Committee*
 6 *on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and*
 7 *the Committee on Small Business of the House of Represent-*
 8 *atives by the Associate Administrator, and which shall in-*
 9 *clude the following:*

10 “(1) *BOOTS TO BUSINESS.—For the Boots to*
 11 *Business Program under subsection (d)—*

12 “(A) *the number of program participants*
 13 *using each component of the Boots to Business*
 14 *Program;*

15 “(B) *the completion rates for each compo-*
 16 *nent of the Boots to Business Program;*

17 “(C) *to the extent possible—*

18 “(i) *the demographics of program par-*
 19 *ticipants, to include gender, age, race, rela-*
 20 *tionship to military, Military Occupational*
 21 *Code, and years of service of program par-*
 22 *ticipants;*

23 “(ii) *the number of small business con-*
 24 *cerns formed or expanded with assistance*
 25 *under the Boots to Business Program;*

1 “(iii) the gross receipts of small busi-
2 ness concerns receiving assistance under the
3 Boots to Business program;

4 “(iv) the number of jobs created with
5 assistance under the Boots to Business pro-
6 gram;

7 “(v) the number of referrals to other re-
8 sources and programs of the Administra-
9 tion;

10 “(vi) the number of program partici-
11 pants receiving financial assistance under
12 loan programs of the Administration;

13 “(vii) the type and dollar amount of
14 financial assistance received by program
15 participants under loan programs of the
16 Administration; and

17 “(viii) results of participant satisfac-
18 tion surveys, including a summary of any
19 comments received from program partici-
20 pants;

21 “(D) an evaluation of the effectiveness of the
22 program in each region of the Administration
23 during the most recent fiscal year;

24 “(E) an assessment of additional perform-
25 ance outcome measures for the Boots to Business

1 *Program, as identified by the Associate Adminis-*
 2 *trator;*

3 *“(F) any recommendations of the Adminis-*
 4 *trator for improvement of the Boots to Business*
 5 *Program, which may include expansion of the*
 6 *types of individuals who are covered individuals;*

7 *“(G) an explanation of how the Boots to*
 8 *Business program has been integrated with other*
 9 *transition programs and related resources of the*
 10 *Administration and other Federal agencies; and*

11 *“(H) any additional information the Ad-*
 12 *ministrator determines necessary.*

13 *“(2) WOMEN VETERANS BUSINESS TRAINING*
 14 *PROGRAM.—For the Women Veterans Business Train-*
 15 *ing Program under subsection (e)—*

16 *“(A) the number of program participants*
 17 *using each component of the Women Veterans*
 18 *Business Training Program;*

19 *“(B) the completion rates for each compo-*
 20 *nent of the Women Veterans Business Training*
 21 *Program;*

22 *“(C) to the extent possible—*

23 *“(i) the demographics of program par-*
 24 *ticipants, to include gender, age, race, rela-*
 25 *tionship to military, and years of service;*

1 “(ii) *the number of small business con-*
2 *cerns formed or expanded with assistance*
3 *under the Women Veterans Business Train-*
4 *ing Program;*

5 “(iii) *the gross receipts of small busi-*
6 *ness concerns receiving assistance under the*
7 *Women Veterans Business Training Pro-*
8 *gram;*

9 “(iv) *the number of jobs created with*
10 *assistance under the Women Veterans Busi-*
11 *ness Training Program;*

12 “(v) *the number of referrals to other re-*
13 *sources and programs of the Administra-*
14 *tion;*

15 “(vi) *the number of referrals from other*
16 *resources and programs of the Administra-*
17 *tion and other Federal agencies;*

18 “(vii) *the number of program partici-*
19 *pants receiving financial assistance under*
20 *loan programs of the Administration;*

21 “(viii) *the type and dollar amount of*
22 *financial assistance received by program*
23 *participants under loan programs of the*
24 *Administration; and*

1 “(ix) the results of participant satisfac-
 2 tion surveys, including a summary of any
 3 comments received from program partici-
 4 pants;

5 “(D) an assessment of additional perform-
 6 ance outcome measures for the Women Veterans
 7 Business Training Program, as identified by the
 8 Associate Administrator;

9 “(E) any recommendations of the Adminis-
 10 trator for improvement of the Women Veterans
 11 Business Training Program;

12 “(F) an explanation of how the Women Vet-
 13 erans Business Training Program has been inte-
 14 grated with other transition programs and re-
 15 lated resources of the Administration and other
 16 Federal agencies; and

17 “(G) any additional information the Ad-
 18 ministrator determines necessary.

19 “(3) BUSINESS TRAINING PROGRAM FOR SERVICE
 20 DISABLED VETERANS.—For the Business Training
 21 Program for Service Disabled Veterans under sub-
 22 section (f)—

23 “(A) the number of program participants
 24 using each component of the Business Training
 25 Program for Service Disabled Veterans;

1 “(B) the completion rates for each compo-
2 nent of the Business Training Program for Serv-
3 ice Disabled Veterans;

4 “(C) to the extent possible—

5 “(i) the demographics of program par-
6 ticipants, to include gender, age, race, rela-
7 tionship to military, and years of service;

8 “(ii) the number of small business con-
9 cerns formed or expanded with assistance
10 under the Business Training Program for
11 Service Disabled Veterans;

12 “(iii) the gross receipts of small busi-
13 ness concerns receiving assistance under the
14 Business Training Program for Service Dis-
15 abled Veterans;

16 “(iv) the number of jobs created with
17 assistance under the Business Training
18 Program for Service Disabled Veterans;

19 “(v) the number of referrals to other re-
20 sources and programs of the Administra-
21 tion;

22 “(vi) the number of referrals from other
23 resources and programs of the Administra-
24 tion and other Federal agencies;

1 “(vii) the number of program partici-
2 pants receiving financial assistance under
3 loan programs of the Administration;

4 “(viii) the type and dollar amount of
5 financial assistance received by program
6 participants under loan programs of the
7 Administration; and

8 “(ix) the results of participant satisfac-
9 tion surveys, including a summary of any
10 comments received from program partici-
11 pants;

12 “(D) an assessment of additional perform-
13 ance outcome measures for the Business Training
14 Program for Service Disabled Veterans, as iden-
15 tified by the Associate Administrator;

16 “(E) any recommendations of the Adminis-
17 trator for improvement of the Business Training
18 Program for Service Disabled Veterans;

19 “(F) an explanation of how the Business
20 Training Program for Service Disabled Veterans
21 has been integrated with other transition pro-
22 grams and related resources of the Administra-
23 tion and other Federal agencies; and

24 “(G) any additional information the Ad-
25 ministrator determines necessary.

1 “(4) *VETERAN’S BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTER*
 2 *PROGRAM.—For the veterans’ business outreach center*
 3 *program under subsection (g)—*

4 “(A) *an evaluation of the effectiveness of the*
 5 *veterans’ business outreach center program in*
 6 *each region of the Administration during the*
 7 *most recent full fiscal year;*

8 “(B) *for each veterans’ business outreach*
 9 *center established or operated using financial as-*
 10 *sistance provided under subsection (g)—*

11 “(i) *the number of individuals receiv-*
 12 *ing assistance from the veterans’ business*
 13 *outreach center, including the number of*
 14 *such individuals who are—*

15 “(I) *veterans or spouses of vet-*
 16 *erans;*

17 “(II) *service-disabled veterans or*
 18 *spouses of service-disabled veterans;*

19 “(III) *Reservists or spouses of Re-*
 20 *servists; or*

21 “(IV) *spouses of members of the*
 22 *Armed Forces on active duty;*

23 “(ii) *the average distance traveled by*
 24 *veterans to access services at the veterans’*
 25 *business outreach center;*

1 “(iii) the number of small business
2 concerns formed by individuals receiving
3 assistance from the veterans’ business out-
4 reach center, including—

5 “(I) veterans or spouses of vet-
6 erans;

7 “(II) service-disabled veterans or
8 spouses of service-disabled veterans;

9 “(III) Reservists or spouses of Re-
10 servists; or

11 “(IV) spouses of members of the
12 Armed Forces on active duty; and

13 “(iv) to the extent possible—

14 “(I) the gross receipts of small
15 business concerns receiving assistance
16 from the veterans’ business outreach
17 center;

18 “(II) the employment increases or
19 decreases of small business concerns re-
20 ceiving assistance from the veterans’
21 business outreach center;

22 “(III) the increases or decreases in
23 profits of small business concerns re-
24 ceiving assistance from the veterans’
25 business outreach center;

1 “(IV) the number of referrals by
2 the veterans’ business outreach center
3 to other resources and programs of the
4 Administration;

5 “(V) the results of satisfaction
6 surveys, including a summary of any
7 comments received from small business
8 concerns receiving assistance from the
9 veterans’ business outreach center;

10 “(VI) the number of small busi-
11 ness concerns receiving assistance from
12 the veterans’ business outreach center
13 that received financial assistance
14 under loan programs of the Adminis-
15 tration;

16 “(VII) the type and dollar
17 amount of financial assistance received
18 under loan programs of the Adminis-
19 tration by small business concerns re-
20 ceiving assistance from the veterans’
21 business outreach center;

22 “(VIII) the number of small busi-
23 ness concerns receiving assistance from
24 the veterans’ business outreach center
25 that obtained a Federal contract

1 *through a small business contracting*
2 *program;*

3 “(IX) *the type and dollar amount*
4 *of the Federal contracts awarded to*
5 *small business concerns receiving as-*
6 *sistance from the veterans’ business*
7 *outreach center;*

8 “(X) *an assessment of additional*
9 *performance outcome measures for the*
10 *veterans’ business outreach center, as*
11 *identified by the Associate Adminis-*
12 *trator; and*

13 “(XI) *the results of the examina-*
14 *tion of the veterans’ business outreach*
15 *center under subsection (g)(10);*

16 “(C) *any recommendations of the Adminis-*
17 *trator for improvement of the veterans’ business*
18 *outreach center program;*

19 “(D) *an explanation of how the veterans’*
20 *business outreach center program has been inte-*
21 *grated with other transition programs and re-*
22 *lated resources of the Administration and other*
23 *Federal agencies; and*

24 “(E) *any additional information the Ad-*
25 *ministrator determines necessary.*

1 “(5) *OTHER ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS ADMIN-*
 2 *ISTERED BY THE OFFICE OF VETERANS BUSINESS DE-*
 3 *VELOPMENT.—An evaluation of the effectiveness of*
 4 *any other activities and programs administered by*
 5 *the Office of Veterans Business Development, includ-*
 6 *ing using the metrics identified in paragraphs (1)*
 7 *through (4).*

8 “(6) *VETERANS BUSINESS OWNERS INITIATIVE*
 9 *PILOT PROGRAM.—For the Veterans Business Owners*
 10 *Initiative Pilot Program under subsection (h)—*

11 “(A) *the number of program participants*
 12 *using each component of the Veteran Business*
 13 *Owners Initiative Pilot Program;*

14 “(B) *the completion rates for each compo-*
 15 *nent of the Veteran Business Owners Initiative*
 16 *Pilot Program;*

17 “(C) *to the extent possible—*

18 “(i) *the demographics of program par-*
 19 *ticipants, including gender, age, race, rela-*
 20 *tionship to military, and years of service;*

21 “(ii) *the number of small business con-*
 22 *cerns formed or expanded with assistance*
 23 *under the Veteran Business Owners Initia-*
 24 *tive Pilot Program;*

1 “(iii) the gross receipts of small busi-
2 ness concerns receiving assistance under the
3 Veteran Business Owners Initiative Pilot
4 Program;

5 “(iv) the number of jobs created with
6 assistance under the Veteran Business Own-
7 ers Initiative Pilot Program;

8 “(v) the number of referrals to other re-
9 sources and programs of the Administra-
10 tion;

11 “(vi) the number of referrals from other
12 resources and programs of the Administra-
13 tion and other Federal agencies;

14 “(vii) the number of program partici-
15 pants receiving financial assistance under
16 loan programs of the Administration;

17 “(viii) the type and dollar amount of
18 financial assistance received by program
19 participants under loan programs of the
20 Administration; and

21 “(ix) the results of participant satisfac-
22 tion surveys, including a summary of any
23 comments received from program partici-
24 pants;

1 “(D) an assessment of additional perform-
 2 ance outcome measures for the Veteran Business
 3 Owners Initiative Pilot Program, as identified
 4 by the Associate Administrator;

5 “(E) any recommendations of the Adminis-
 6 trator for improvement of the Veteran Business
 7 Owners Initiative Pilot Program;

8 “(F) an explanation of how the Veteran
 9 Business Owners Initiative Pilot Program has
 10 been integrated with other transition programs
 11 and related resources of the Administration and
 12 other Federal agencies; and

13 “(G) any additional information the Ad-
 14 ministrator determines necessary.”.

15 (b) *FEDERAL SHARE FOR EXISTING PROGRAM.*—

16 (1) *DEFINITION.*—In this subsection, the term
 17 “existing award” means an award made under the
 18 Veterans’ Business Outreach Center Program of the
 19 Small Business Administration before the date of en-
 20 actment of this Act that is in effect on the date of en-
 21 actment of this Act.

22 (2) *EXCEPTION FROM PROVISION ON FAILURE TO*
 23 *OBTAIN NON-FEDERAL FUNDING.*—During the 2-year
 24 period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act,
 25 subsection (g)(8)(D) of section 32 of the Small Busi-

ness Act (15 U.S.C. 657b), as added by subsection (a),
shall not apply to an existing award.

(c) GAO REPORTS.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

(A) the term “covered individual” means—

(i) a veteran;

(ii) a service-disabled veteran;

(iii) a Reservist;

(iv) the spouse of an individual described in clause (i), (ii), or (iii); or

(v) the spouse of a member of the Armed Forces;

(B) the terms “Reservist”, “small business concern owned and controlled by veterans”, and “veterans’ business outreach center program” have the meanings given those terms in section 32(g) of the Small Business Act, as added by subsection (a); and

(C) the terms “service-disabled veteran”, “small business concern”, and “veteran” have the meanings given those terms under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

(2) REPORT ON ACCESS TO CREDIT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the

1 *Comptroller General of the United States shall*
2 *submit a report regarding the ability of small*
3 *business concerns owned and controlled by cov-*
4 *ered individuals to access credit to—*

5 *(i) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs*
6 *and the Committee on Small Business and*
7 *Entrepreneurship of the Senate; and*

8 *(ii) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs*
9 *and the Committee on Small Business of the*
10 *House of Representatives.*

11 *(B) CONTENTS.—The report submitted*
12 *under subparagraph (A) shall include an anal-*
13 *ysis of—*

14 *(i) the sources of credit used by small*
15 *business concerns owned and controlled by*
16 *covered individuals and the percentage of*
17 *the credit obtained by small business con-*
18 *cerns owned and controlled by covered indi-*
19 *viduals that is obtained from each source;*

20 *(ii) the default rate for small business*
21 *concerns owned and controlled by covered*
22 *individuals separately for each source of*
23 *credit described in clause (i), as compared*
24 *to the default rate for the source of credit for*
25 *small business concerns generally;*

1 (iii) the Federal lending programs
2 available to provide credit to small business
3 concerns owned and controlled by covered
4 individuals;

5 (iv) gaps, if any, in the availability of
6 credit for small business concerns owned
7 and controlled by covered individuals that
8 are not being filled by the Federal Govern-
9 ment or private sources;

10 (v) obstacles faced by covered individ-
11 uals in trying to access credit;

12 (vi) the extent to which deployment
13 and other military responsibilities affect the
14 credit history of veterans and Reservists;
15 and

16 (vii) the extent to which covered indi-
17 viduals are aware of Federal programs tar-
18 geted towards helping covered individuals
19 access credit.

20 (3) *REPORT ON VETERANS' BUSINESS OUTREACH*
21 *CENTER PROGRAM.*—

22 (A) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 60 days
23 after the end of the second fiscal year beginning
24 after the date on which the veterans' business
25 outreach center program is established, the

1 *Comptroller General of the United States shall*
2 *evaluate the effectiveness of the veterans' business*
3 *outreach center program, and submit to Congress*
4 *a report on the results of that evaluation.*

5 (B) *CONTENTS.—The report submitted*
6 *under subparagraph (A) shall include—*

7 (i) *an assessment of—*

8 (I) *the use of amounts made*
9 *available to carry out the veterans'*
10 *business outreach center program;*

11 (II) *the effectiveness of the services*
12 *provided by each entity receiving fi-*
13 *nancial assistance under the veterans'*
14 *business outreach center program;*

15 (III) *whether the services de-*
16 *scribed in subclause (II) are duplica-*
17 *tive of services provided by other vet-*
18 *erans service organizations, programs*
19 *of the Small Business Administration,*
20 *or programs of another Federal depart-*
21 *ment or agency and, if so, rec-*
22 *ommendations regarding how to allevi-*
23 *ate the duplication of the services;*

24 (IV) *whether there are areas of the*
25 *United States in which there are not*

adequate entrepreneurial services for small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans and, if so, whether there is a veterans' business outreach center established under the veterans' business outreach center program providing services to that area; and

(V) whether there is a correlation between the proximity of a veterans' business outreach center to small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans and the rate of the use of the services of the veterans' business outreach center; and

(ii) recommendations, if any, for improving the veterans' business outreach center program.

**SEC. 3. IMPROVEMENTS TO BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND
ENTREPRENEURIAL PROGRAMS.**

(a) *DEFINITIONS.*—In this section—

(1) the terms “Administration” and “Administrator” mean the Small Business Administration and the Administrator thereof, respectively;

1 (2) the term “individual eligible for a veteran
2 entrepreneurial development program” means—

3 (A) a covered individual, as defined in sec-
4 tion 32(d)(1) of the Small Business Act, as
5 amended by section 2;

6 (B) a covered individual, as defined in sec-
7 tion 32(e)(1) of the Small Business Act, as
8 amended by section 2;

9 (C) a service-disabled veteran, as defined in
10 section 3(q)(1) of the Small Business Act (15
11 U.S.C. 632(q)(1)); and

12 (D) an individual who qualifies to be the
13 owner of a small business concern owned and
14 controlled by veterans, as defined in section
15 32(g)(1)(C) of the Small Business Act, as
16 amended by section 2;

17 (3) the term “one-stop resource” means the one-
18 stop online resource established under subsection
19 (c)(1); and

20 (4) the term “small business concern” has the
21 meaning given that term under section 3 of the Small
22 Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

23 (b) VETERAN PEER-TO-PEER NETWORKS.—Not later
24 than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the
25 Administrator shall establish guidelines to improve the net-

1 *work of peer-to-peer counseling and mentoring for individ-*
 2 *uals eligible for a veteran entrepreneurial development pro-*
 3 *gram relating to the business development and entrepre-*
 4 *neurial programs of the Administration.*

5 *(c) ONE-STOP ONLINE RESOURCE.—*

6 *(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall es-*
 7 *tablish an online mechanism that serves as a one-stop*
 8 *online resource for veterans regarding all of the entre-*
 9 *preneurial development programs of the Administra-*
 10 *tion.*

11 *(2) CONTENTS.—The one-stop resource shall in-*
 12 *clude descriptions of each entrepreneurial program of*
 13 *the Administration (which shall include the programs*
 14 *described in paragraph (3)), including—*

15 *(A) target client descriptions for each pro-*
 16 *gram;*

17 *(B) contact information for information on*
 18 *or assistance regarding each program from lo-*
 19 *cally, State-wide, and nationally available*
 20 *sources;*

21 *(C) a detailed description of the services*
 22 *available under each program;*

23 *(D) a description of any costs associated*
 24 *with the services under each program;*

1 (E) an outline of program curriculums if
2 training seminars or courses are offered; and

3 (F) other resource information that the Ad-
4 ministrators determine appropriate and nec-
5 essary for veteran entrepreneurs and veterans
6 who own small business concerns, in order to en-
7 sure the one-stop online resource provides infor-
8 mation and resources necessary for a veteran be-
9 ginning to develop a small business concern.

10 (3) *PROGRAMS.*—The programs identified and
11 described under the one-stop resource shall include—

12 (A) the small business development center
13 program under section 21 of the Small Business
14 Act (15 U.S.C. 648);

15 (B) the women’s business center program
16 under section 29 of the Small Business Act (15
17 U.S.C. 656);

18 (C) the programs of the Office of Entrepre-
19 neurship Education of the Administration;

20 (D) the Boots to Business program under
21 section 32(d) of the Small Business Act, as
22 amended by section 2(a) of this Act;

23 (E) the veterans’ business outreach center
24 program under section 32(e) of the Small Busi-
25 ness Act, as amended by section 2(a) of this Act;

1 (F) the Service Corps of Retired Executives
 2 program authorized by section 8(b)(1) of the
 3 Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(b)(1)); and

4 (G) any other program of the Administra-
 5 tion determined appropriate by the Adminis-
 6 trator.

7 **SEC. 4. REPORTING REQUIREMENT FOR INTERAGENCY**
 8 **TASK FORCE.**

9 Section 32(c) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
 10 657b(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

11 “(4) *REPORT*.—Not less frequently than once
 12 each year, the Administrator shall submit to Congress
 13 a report—

14 “(A) discussing the appointments made to
 15 and activities of the task force; and

16 “(B) identifying and outlining a plan for
 17 outreach and promotion of all the programs au-
 18 thorized under the Veterans Small Business De-
 19 velopment Act of 2015, or an amendment made
 20 by that Act.”.

21 **SEC. 5. EDUCATIONAL TRAINING.**

22 Section 8(b) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C.
 23 637(b)) is amended—

24 (1) in paragraph (16), by striking “and” at the
 25 end;

1 (2) *in paragraph (17), by striking the period at*
2 *the end and inserting “; and”; and*

3 (3) *by adding at the end the following:*

4 “(18) *to make a grant to, or enter into a cooper-*
5 *ative agreement with, a nonprofit entity to operate an*
6 *educational training program to provide assistance to*
7 *small business concerns owned and controlled by vet-*
8 *erans regarding how to increase the likelihood of*
9 *being awarded contracts with the Federal Govern-*
10 *ment—*

11 “(A) *which shall be made to or entered into*
12 *with a nonprofit entity that has a track record*
13 *of successfully providing educational and job*
14 *training services to targeted veterans populations*
15 *in diverse locations;*

16 “(B) *under which the nonprofit entity shall*
17 *be required to match any Federal funds received*
18 *for the program with State, local, or private sec-*
19 *tor funds; and*

20 “(C) *under which the nonprofit entity shall*
21 *use a diverse group of professional service ex-*
22 *perts, such as Federal, State, and local con-*
23 *tracting experts and private sector industry ex-*
24 *perts with first-hand experience in Federal Gov-*
25 *ernment contracting, to provide instruction to*

- 1 *small business concerns owned and controlled by*
- 2 *veterans.”.*

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114TH CONGRESS
1ST Session

S. 1866

A BILL

To establish the veterans' business outreach center program, to improve the programs for veterans of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

SEPTEMBER 15, 2015

Reported with an amendment